BOMBAY—1924-25

A Review of the Administration of the Presidency

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INTRODUCTION

THE Administration Report for 1924-25 is on the same lines as last year. It is divided into two parts.

Part I is a general summay of the year's work.

Part II deals with the work and events of the year under review and is preceded, where necessary, by a note explaining the history and functions of the department of Government whose work is reviewed and its place in the administration.

Photographs and diagrams have been inserted in the report as usual. The selling price has been fixed at Rs. 2 per copy.

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Gateway of India, Apollo Bandar, Bombay.

[*Frontispiece*

BOMBAY, 1924-25

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

THE chief political interest of the year under review centred round the efforts of the two parties in the National Congress to find some formula acceptable to both of them. It was Mr. Gandhi's view that all those in the Congress who did not believe in the Congress boycotts including the boycott of the Legislatures, should not be members of the All-India Congress Committee and local executive committees. The Swarajists in his opinion should work their constructive programme through their own organisation. This, however, the Swarajists showed no intention of doing. At a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee held at Ahmedabad towards the end of June, Mr. Gandhi put forward four Resolutions. They required all members of the Congress organisation to spin for at least half an hour daily. Failure to do so was to be regarded as vacation of office and the same result followed in the case of members who did not comply with Congress instructions. Election to executive office in the Congress was to be open only to those who adopted all the items in the Congress creed including the boycott. The moving of the first resolution was the signal for the raising of a point of order by the Swarajists on the ground that the resolution was unconstitutional but their objection being over-ruled the Swarajists thereupon left the hall in a body. After their departure the resolutions were carried by a majority of 30 votes, but Mr. Gandhi pointed out that if the Swaraj party votes had been counted, the voting would have been in his favour by only a narrow majority and he therefore advised the meeting to rescind the penal clause. This was agreed to. There followed a conference between the Swaraj leaders and Mr. Gandhi and at the meeting of the committee, next day,

Mr. Gandhi announced that the Swarajists had agreed to work the constructive programme and join the Working Committee. A compromise resolution was passed by a large majority to the effect that such Congressmen as had no religious or other conscientious objection against entering the Legislatures were at liberty to stand as candidates and to vote at the elections. The result of this meeting was, in effect, to restore the *status quo* and a united Congress seemed as far off as ever, for Mr. Gandhi himself, writing in his paper, *Young India*, admitted that he " did not know where he stood ". In the middle of September the Swaraj Party held a Conference at Calcutta where Mr. Gandhi was at the time. He had several conferences with the Swarajist leaders and made certain proposals, the effect of which would have been to admit the Swarajists to full participation in the control of the Congress machinery in the interests of the Congress units. He had in his own words " laid down his arms " and he pointed out that " Non-co-operation has taken the form of Non-co-operation in practice with one another instead of the Government." Writing in *Young India* he made the following proposals :—Congress should suspend all boycotts except of foreign cloth and, subject to this, remove the boycott of Empire goods. It should confine itself solely to propaganda in support of hand-spinning and hand-spun khaddar, Hindu-Muslim unity and, among Hindu members, the removal of untouchability. Congress should also abolish the four-anna franchise and substitute spinning and delivery to the Congress of self-spun yarn and cotton as a qualification of membership. These proposals were but coldly welcomed by the Swarajists who visualised a Congress converted into an organisation engaged solely in spinning and social work.

More negotiations followed and early in November the pact signed by Mr. Gandhi on the one hand, and Mr. Das and Pandit Motilal Nehru, on the other, was announced. It recommended (1) that Non-co-operation be suspended except in so far as it related to the refusal to use or wear cloth made out of India ; (2) that different classes of work in the Congress might be done by different sections within it, but all should work for the spread of hand-spinning and hand-weaving and of hand-spun

and hand-woven khaddar, the promotion of unity between the different communities and by the Hindus the removal of untouchability. The work in connection with the Legislatures should be carried on by the Swaraj party on behalf of the Congress as an integral part of the Congress organisation, the Swaraj party making its own rules and raising and administering its own funds; (3) that the spinning franchise resolution be repealed but that no one should be a member of any Congress Committee or organisation unless he wore khaddar at political and Congress functions and while engaged on Congress business, and contributed 2,000 yards of evenly spun yarn of his own spinning or, in case of illness, unwillingness, or any such cause, a like quantity spun by any other person. Invitations were issued by the President of the Congress to members of other political organisations to attend the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee to discuss these recommendations and to devise means to meet and resist the " repressive " policy initiated by the Government of Bengal. The Congress leaders were of opinion that the action taken in Bengal to put down anarchical crime and revolutionary propaganda offered greater opportunities for obtaining nominal unity, than any constructive programme they had so far been able to devise. The resolutions drafted for the acceptance of the meeting and the speeches accompanying them did not, however, meet with the full approval of the audience, an influential section of which was of opinion that condemnation of the repressive measures should be preceded by condemnation of the crimes that led to their adoption. Mrs. Besant supported Government's policy because she thought there was a dangerous conspiracy in the country and she also opposed the demand for the immediate withdrawal of the Ordinance. A resolution was also passed recommending the appointment of a Committee to consider the best way of re-uniting all political parties in the National Congress and to prepare a scheme of Swaraj. The conference appears to have achieved very little. The annual session of the Congress was held in Belgaum in December. Mr. Gandhi's presidential address devoted special attention to the spinning franchise, Hindu-Muslim unity, and untouchability and he made

suggestions for, amongst other things, curtailment of military expenditure, cheapening of the administration of justice, prohibition, reduction of the salaries of the Services, redistribution of Provinces on a linguistic basis with as complete autonomy as practicable, etc.

Mr. C. R. Das moved a resolution which recommended Congress to adopt the Gandhi-Das-Nehru agreement, congratulated the Swarajists and others arrested in Bengal and recommended the substitution of the four-anna franchise by the spinning franchise. The resolution was passed by a majority. The general result of the Congress was distinctly favourable to the Swaraj Party's plan, for, in effect, they obtained the right to carry on their policy on behalf of the Congress and to use the latter for their own purposes. The Belgaum session was practically barren of results and one of the first effects of it was a big drop in Congress membership which towards the close of the year under report was less than 11,000.

Public interest in the domestic quarrels of the Congress greatly diminished during the remaining three months of the year 1924-25 and became centred in the proceedings of the Legislatures and the majority and minority reports of the Muddiman Reforms Enquiry Committee.

The strained relations between Hindus and Mussulmans referred to last year continued to cause some anxiety, although they were not so apparent in Bombay as in other parts of India. It was suggested that a conference of the leaders of the two communities might be held in Bombay in April to devise means to allay the feeling between the two communities, but nothing came of it. The Central Khilafat Committee met at Delhi in June and resolved to undertake full responsibility for the political, social and economic re-organisation of the Muslim community. Tabligh (conversion to Islam) and Tanzim (consolidation of defence of Mahomedans) associations were formed to give effect to these proposals. These organisations were viewed with some suspicion by the Hindus as having been set up to oppose the Shudhi and Sanghatan movements for the consolidation and defence of Hinduism. The question of Hindu-Muslim unity was declared by Mr. Gandhi to be one of the most

important tasks before him. The tension between the communities however, in no way abated and Mr. Gandhi announced on the 18th September his intentions to observe a fast for 21 days as a " private penance and a public prayer both to the Hindus and Mahomedans not to commit suicide ". A unity conference was held in Delhi during the last week in September and resolutions were passed emphasizing the need for religious toleration and the settling of matters in dispute by reference to arbitration or even to a Court of Law. The conference also condemned inflammatory articles in the Press and called upon the public to stop their patronage of such papers and pamphlets as published articles tending to cause hatred between the communities. In the Bombay Presidency " unity day " meetings were held in the districts but the resolutions of the Delhi conference did not appear to attract very much attention. The Government of Bombay was fully alive to the dangerous possibilities of continued ill-feeling between the two communities and a public warning was issued by Government which, after referring to the frequent appearance of articles in the Press and the circulation of pamphlets written with the idea of accentuating differences between Hindus and Mussulmans declared that if the campaign of calumny did not cease, Government would be constrained to use all the powers entrusted to it by law to guard the religious feelings and susceptibilities of all sections of the public in the Presidency. The end of the year under review saw very little improvement in the general situation as regards Hindu-Muslim unity.

The Liberal Party took part in the deliberations of the Unity Conference which did not, however, lead to any rapprochement between it and the Congress party. The Third Provincial Conference of the Liberals in the Bombay Presidency was held at Ahmednagar during the second half of May, Mr. B. S. Kamat presiding. Resolutions were passed expressing keen dissatisfaction at the vague and indifferent attitude of the Government of India and the Home Government towards India's constitutional advance and calling upon Government to make a clear statement of its policy. The conference also condemned the Muddiman Reforms Enquiry Committee as one-sided and

unrepresentative and called for the immediate appointment of a Royal Commission to consider the entire question of constitutional advance.

An interesting feature of the political history of the year was the growing recognition of the non-Brahmin party in the Presidency as an important factor in All-India politics. Representatives of the party were invited to attend the unity conference where it was agreed to hold the non-Brahmin conference at Belgaum at the same time as the meetings of the Indian National Congress were held. As events turned out, the result of this was to widen and not to lessen the gulf dividing the non-Brahmins from the Congress. The non-Brahmins complained that their conference was practically boycotted by the Congress people and that Mr. Gandhi visited all the other conferences of importance at Belgaum except theirs. The President of the non-Brahmin conference issued a statement pointing out that his party, in pursuance of the undertaking given at the unity conference, at great personal inconvenience, held their meeting in Belgaum and naturally expected the President of the National Congress to make some attempt to obtain an interchange of views, whereas the leaders of the Congress had held themselves aloof from the non-Brahmins. Mr. Gandhi in his reply denied that the non-Brahmin conference was held in response to the Congress invitation. He was, however, anxious to attend it but was prevented from doing so by other business, as he had not been consulted as to the times of the non-Brahmin conference. This explanation was not received with any satisfaction by the non-Brahmins who continued to maintain a separate organisation independent of either the Congress or the Liberal Party.

Finance.—In his speech introducing the Budget for 1925-26 the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Lawrence, Finance Member, said that the opening balance for 1924-25 was 545 lakhs and the closing balance 467 lakhs. The reduction was due to the fact that 79 lakhs were applied to the avoidance of debt. Government had proposed to borrow this sum for irrigation but owing to the increase in the opening balance they had met the expenditure on irrigation from balances instead of from loan money and

saved thereby 4½ lakhs in interest. From the agricultural standpoint the year had on the whole been favourable in the greater part of the Presidency. Government had anticipated a collection of 576 lakhs under Land Revenue but owing to liberal grants of suspensions and remissions and to the transfer of an extra 6½ lakhs to the budget head 'Irrigation', the revised estimate amounted to 524 lakhs. There had been some slight improvement in business and the stamp revenue was expected to bring in 171½ lakhs.

The Finance Member referred to the criticism that had been heard in certain quarters that the expenditure of Government had been directed in a greater measure to the Departments concerned in the maintenance of law and order and not to the Departments which dealt with what are called nation building purposes. The latter appears to be assumed by some thinkers to be synonymous with the Transferred Departments and some of Government's critics complain that two-thirds of the revenue was spent on Reserved Departments and only one-third on Transferred Departments. This method of allocation, however, charged the Revenue Department with the full responsibility of borrowing money, with payments of superannuation pension, with the provincial contribution to the Government of India, etc. Moreover, it would include irrigation, which protected the country against famine and added to the welfare and prosperity of a large number of their fellow subjects. Was this department less beneficial to the nation because it was in charge of a Member of the Executive Council than if it were in charge of a Minister? He had had a summary prepared of the expenditure of the last few years on departments which dealt with the essential foundations of law and order and finance and those which deal with such beneficial activities as Roads and buildings, Development Department, Medicine, Public Health, Agriculture, Co-operation, Education, Irrigation, Forests, Industries, and Famine Relief, and he found that taking 1919-20 an average year before the Reforms the expenditure on essential necessities had increased by 28 per cent. and the expenditure on other activities had increased by 179 per cent. The Hon'ble Mr. Lawrence pointed out that land revenue had ceased to

expand for the time being. Government had postponed the execution of revision settlements and suffered loss estimated in the current year at 4½ lakhs of rupees. The extension of the period of settlements in Sind to 20 years had also checked the increase of revenue. The burdens of the agriculturists had been further lightened by the operation of a system of suspensions and remissions which in the current year amounted together to 80 lakhs, a year moreover which had been reported by the agricultural experts to have been on the whole fairly favourable.

The demands for advance in every direction were very insistent and Government had had to reject and postpone numerous schemes which were admittedly of great public importance. Education, Medical, Agriculture, P. W. D., to name only a few, are crying out for further funds but Government had only succeeded in providing for things that were regarded as absolutely necessary. If extra taxation was not passed by the Council, it would be necessary to cut down services now being rendered to the public even though Government considered them to be of essential benefit. And since the frame-work of Government must be maintained if the administration were not to be allowed to lapse into chaos, it followed of necessity that such retrenchment must be made primarily in those departments which minister to the more advanced needs of the community.

" The House," said the Finance Member, " is confronted with a very urgent issue and it is necessary that that issue should be placed before it in the most plain and distinct terms. It is not possible for Government to consent to a closure of Courts of Justice, to the dismissal of police forces necessary for the protection of the people or to withdraw any of the officers required for the collection of revenue. These primary services of a civilised Government must be maintained in efficient working. I assume that there can be no dispute on this point. For we all know by observation, if not by personal experience, that nothing but the strong arm of Government can protect its citizens from the desperate adventures of wild and lawless men. It follows therefore that retrenchment must fall with a heavy hand on those

services which are not essential to life, however beneficial they may be to the advance of prosperity and the higher ideals of civilisation."

The Finance Member pointed out that the Government of Bombay again received no benefit from the income tax collected in the Presidency and they had lost no opportunity of expressing their dissent from the system which was established under what was known as the Meston Settlement and although they had failed to secure any redress during the last four years, they did not propose to acquiesce in the anomalies of the system without continuous protests.

The ordinary revenue of the Presidency during 1924-25 amounted to Rs. 1,561 lakhs and expenditure to Rs. 1,520 lakhs. Loan Revenue amounted to Rs. 895 lakhs and loan expenditure to Rs. 852 lakhs. Details will be found in Part II of this volume.

Trade and Commerce.—The outstanding feature of the trade of the Bombay Presidency, excluding Sind, during the year 1924-25 was the unprecedented flow of the precious metals, gold in particular, into Bombay. The total value of Bombay's imports of gold and silver on private account left all previous records far behind, and actually amounted to Rs. 94½ crores, a figure over Rs. 36 crores higher than the record established in 1922-23. The actual quantity of gold imported was over 11,727,000 fine ounces, valued at Rs. 72$\frac{1}{3}$ crores, and imports of silver exceeded Rs. 22 crores in value. Little of the gold was re-exported, but Rs. 3$\frac{2}{3}$ crores worth of silver was shipped from Bombay. Thus the value of the retained imports was little short of Rs. 90½ crores.

This glut of treasure was bound to react in some measure on Bombay's trade in merchandise. Bombay is India's bullion market, and imports bullion for the whole of India. Hence Bombay was so preoccupied in buying its favourite commodity, gold, at attractive prices that its attention was partly diverted from ordinary merchandise. Consequently the total foreign trade in merchandise of the Presidency proper in the year 1924-25 which was valued at Rs. 196 crores declined by Rs. 8 crores or 4 per cent. as compared with the figures of the previous

year. But if this trade be analysed, it will be found to be much more satisfactory than appears at first sight. Imports of merchandise were valued at Rs. 87·42 crores, showing a fall of Rs. 1·21 crore which is accounted for more than four times over by poor receipts of machinery and millwork and of railway plant and rolling stock. Naturally little new machinery could be expected to arrive when the cotton spinning and weaving industry in Bombay, as in other parts of the world, was suffering from severe depression, and the decline in railway stores was largely due to a change in policy whereby smaller stocks are maintained. Iron and steel receipts fell slightly in volume but by Rs. 54 lakhs in value. British shipments contracted by 37,000 tons, but low-priced continental products were in no way checked by the measure of protection granted by the legislature to the Indian industry. On the other hand there was a clear consumptive demand for many imported commodities. Thus imports of sugar expanded by 55,000 tons and attained a value of Rs. 5·39 crores; manufactures of cotton advanced by Rs. 94 lakhs, cotton twist and yarn by Rs. 66 lakhs, woollen manufactures by Rs. 55 lakhs and artificial silk by Rs. 51½ lakhs. Imports of real silk piecegoods increased in volume, but their value declined owing to a fall in the price level. Record arrivals of raw cotton, mostly from Africa, are also worthy of remark; their value advanced from Rs. 2·46 to Rs. 4·24 crores. But it is not enough to consider values only; prices must also be taken into account before the volume of trade can be estimated. The prices of imported commodities had generally fallen, and a decrease in value had actually been accompanied by an increase in volume.

The export trade in merchandise, which was valued at Rs. 108½ crores as against Rs. 115¼ crores in the previous year, also did much better than a decline of Rs. 6¾ crores in value would indicate. This decline was solely due to the fact that shipments of raw Indian cotton fell from the previous year's record figure of 545,000 tons to 422,000 tons. The value declined from Rs. 76½ to Rs. 63¼ crores. The reason is not far to seek; at long last 1924 witnessed a large American crop, and both Europe and Japan needed and took less Indian cotton. Further the

Indian 1924 crop, though large, was late. Consequently the export season started late and was less advanced than usual when the fiscal year ended. Apart from cotton there was a distinct and well-distributed improvement. In particular, seeds expanded in value by Rs. 2½ crores, raw wool by Rs. 98½ lakhs and grain, pulse and flour by Rs. 90 lakhs. There was a welcome expansion of 16¾ million yards in the exports of Indian cotton piecegoods, and the value rose from Rs. 4·27 to Rs. 4·62 crores. Exports of Indian cotton yarn declined in quantity but rose in value. The explanation is that though Bombay has lost her China market, she is pushing sales nearer home in Persia, Arabia and Syria, countries which seem to prefer less coarse counts than China and to be willing to pay for them.

The gross Customs receipts of the Presidency proper exclusive of the excise duty on cotton manufactures and the tea and cotton cesses amounted to the record figure of Rs. 13,26,40,317 during the year under report as compared with Rs. 11,89,77,028 in the preceding year.

The aggregate value of the coasting trade fell further by Rs. 10·17 crores to Rs. 69·41 crores owing mainly to smaller shipments of raw cotton from Kathiawar, Sind, Madras, Cutch and the Southern Maratha Country *via* Goa; rice from Burma and Bengal; wheat from Sind; and cotton piecegoods from Bombay.

The total value of the maritime trade of the Province of Sind reached the record level of Rs. 109 crores 76 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 19 crores 95 lakhs over the previous year's figure. Exports increased by 37 per cent. and the balance of trade in favour of the port was Rs. 21 crores 56 lakhs.

Agriculture.—Taking the situation of the agricultural season 1924-25 as a whole it may be regarded as satisfactory over a large part of the Bombay Presidency including Sind. There was an increase in the gross cropped area of 627,000 acres, Gujerat, the Deccan and the Karnatak all showing increases. The total cultivated area in the Presidency proper was 33,454,000 acres and in Sind 9,497,000 acres and in the year under review the increase was 0·1 per cent. in the Presidency proper and 1·4

per cent. in Sind. More than two-thirds of the cultivated area of the Presidency is devoted to growing food-stuffs, bajri, paddy, wheat and gram being the most important crops. The largest non-food crop is cotton. The area devoted to the cultivation of Jowar showed a substantial increase of 16 per cent. in the Presidency and 23·5 per cent. in Sind. Bajri decreased by 29·3 per cent. in the Presidency but showed a slight rise of 1·6 per cent. in Sind. There was a large increase of 25 per cent. in wheat both in the Presidency and in Sind. Altogether food-crops showed a small increase in the Presidency proper and in Sind. Non-food crops increased by 6·8 per cent. in the Presidency proper and by 24·4 in Sind, tobacco and oil-seeds being largely responsible for the big increase. More and more land is being devoted to the production of cotton which during the year under review was grown on 4,917,000 acres, an increase of 8·1 per cent. over the previous year and 27·4 per cent. over the normal. But in Sind the increase was even greater amounting to 17 per cent. over the previous year and 63·9 per cent. over the normal. There was an increase also in the irrigated area, which amounted in the Presidency proper to 994,000 acres and in Sind to 3,286,000 acres. The relatively satisfactory character of the season was reflected in the figures for production, for while the area under food-grains in the Presidency rose by only 0·5 per cent. the outturn rose as much as 33 per cent. over the previous year and to a lesser degree the same satisfactory results were achieved in Sind.

The quinquennial census of agricultural stock which was held during the year showed that the total number of cattle in the Presidency amounts to no less than 84,80,000, an advance of 3·60 per cent. on the 1919-20 figures but 7·9 per cent. less than in 1915-16. In Sind however there was an increase of 507,000 head, a figure which is larger by 6·7 per cent. than in 1915-16. In all parts of the Presidency especially in Sind there has been a satisfactory increase in the number of milch cattle. The extended use of modern methods of mechanical transport in the Presidency proper has led to a decrease of 2·8 per cent. in the number of horses and ponies but in Sind where local conditions do not permit of any extensive use of motor vehicles, horses

and ponies have more than held their own, increasing in number from 72,000 to 78,000. There has been a remarkable rise in the numbers of sheep and goats which in the Presidency proper have increased by more than half and in Sind by 30 per cent.

Department of Agriculture.—The Department exists, broadly speaking, for the purpose of bringing about an increase in the value of the produce of the land in the Bombay Presidency and in most areas improvements worked out or introduced by the Agricultural Department are in use on an extensive scale. The influence of the Department is also seen in the increasing desire among cultivators for further improvements and a well-defined movement towards the organisation of local agricultural development by the people themselves. The improvement of crops by the supply of pure or more valuable seed has been perhaps the biggest factor in the increase in the values of agricultural production. A striking instance of this is the gradual development of ground-nut as a cultivator's crop in Khandesh and in Upper Gujerat. The Agricultural Department introduced certain quick growing varieties with a high oil content, the result of which has been an enormous extension of cultivation—from 4,514 acres in 1912-13 to 179,341 acres in 1924-25—and a crop worth Rs. 40 an acre has been replaced by one worth from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 an acre. Satisfactory results, too, have been obtained with new varieties of wheat, rice and cotton. Another method of increasing agricultural yields is better tillage and the Department has found and introduced improved implements in almost every region except, possibly, Upper Gujerat, which presents very special difficulties. The introduction of the iron plough has not only benefited the cultivator but provides a flourishing local industry in the Satara District where two firms manufacture these ploughs. The introduction of ridge cultivation on an extensive scale in the Surat District has had good results, for it has consistently given 25 per cent. greater yield than ordinary cultivation. Another type of work which has established itself definitely as a means of increasing production is the checking of pests and diseases and so preventing the wastage of much that has been grown. The Agricultural Department

has devoted special attention to this and has been specially successful with regard to smut disease in jowar. Special investigations are now in progress to devise means of checking insect pests and finding remedies for diseases of various plants. The Agricultural Department also supplies certain kinds of seed in large quantities as well as implements and manures. It also undertakes the boring of wells, the designing of pumping plants and of land improvement works for construction by individuals or by co-operative societies.

The Poona Agricultural College is as popular as ever. It has 184 students and demands for admission come from all parts of India. In addition there were six vernacular agricultural schools and the Department continued to train a certain number of teachers to take charge of the new primary schools with an agricultural bias which were established in 1922. The net cost of the Department amounted to Rs. 12½ lakhs.

Instruction.—Both in the number of schools and in the pupils attending them education in the Bombay Presidency continues to progress, and the Presidency now leads India as regards the proportion of the population receiving education. Looking at the figures for the years for which complete statistics are available Bombay shows an increase in the number of pupils of 29 per cent. compared with 9 per cent. for the whole of India, and whereas in 1916-17 Bombay stood fourth in the list of Provinces as regards the proportion of boys attending school, and second (with Madras) in the case of girls, by the end of 1922-23 Bombay had risen to the first place for both boys and girls. Moreover, the expenditure in Bombay per head of the population is more than twice as much as the average for the whole of India. Another point to be noticed is that the density of the population in Bombay is only 157 to the square mile whereas in Madras it is 297 and in Bengal 608, the average for the whole of India being 226. It is far more difficult to provide schools for a scattered population than when the people are distributed in compact groups and the large number of children attending school in this Presidency is therefore all the more satisfactory. A less satisfactory feature of the statistics is the unequal distribution of education, particularly of secondary and higher education, for

whereas in some communities practically every boy attends school and a large proportion proceed to a secondary school, there are other classes in which we find millions who are almost illiterate. During 1924-25 the number of primary schools for boys increased by 309 to 11,418 and the number of pupils by 18,122 to 739,836 while the total number of girls under instruction in primary schools was 170,414, an increase of 4,260. The total expenditure on primary education rose by over three lakhs to Rs. 169·87 lakhs. Of this sum Government contributed 107 lakhs, District Local Board Funds 8·6 lakhs, Municipal Funds 34·9 lakhs, Fees 5·8 lakhs and other sources 13·5 lakhs. One of the most serious problems of primary education is the one-master school. It is difficult to provide more than one teacher and the question is how he is to divide his time between the various standards. So far experiments in the shift system, whereby infants attend at one session and the rest of the school at another session, have not been very successful. The villagers do not favour the system, partly because they fear that their children are not receiving sufficient schooling and partly because the children are off their hands for a shorter period.

There are indications of a general awakening among the masses of the need for the primary education of girls although, if the figures are examined it is found that whereas nearly 75 per cent. of Brahmin girls are attending primary schools, among the depressed classes it is less than 2 per cent. Probably less than 5 per cent. of the girls of the less advanced communities are receiving any education. Among the Parsis nearly 15 per cent. of the female population are attending school and it would appear that every Parsi girl receives primary education and more than half go to secondary schools.

The total expenditure on Public Instruction in 1924-25 rose by over 12½ lakhs to about 339 lakhs. Government Funds contributed 54·3 per cent., District Local Board Funds 3·7 per cent., Municipal Board Funds 11·5 per cent., Fees 17·7 per cent. and other sources 12·8 per cent. The percentage of male scholars under instruction in all kinds of institutions to the male population was 8·11 as against 7·99 in the preceding year, while that of female scholars under instruction to the female

population was 2·14 as against 2·10. In the Indian States the percentage of male scholars was 6·8 against 6·7 while that of female scholars remained stationary at 0·6. In British Districts out of a total of 26,731 towns and villages, 9,808 possessed schools, the average area served by each town or village with a school being 12·6 sq. miles. In Indian States the average area served was 15·1 sq. miles.

Law and Justice.—During the year under review fourteen Acts were passed by the Legislative Council, most of them being amendments of existing legislation, dealing with points of minor importance that experience had shown should be incorporated in the Acts. The more important of these amending Acts were those which—

(*a*) extended the Rent Act in Karachi until December 31st, 1925, and also prevented sub-letting by tenants, whose lease had no definite term, without the consent of the landlord ;

(*b*) removed the sex-disqualification of women on municipalities and gave Government the power to dissolve a municipality and order a fresh election in certain eventualities ;

(*c*) made further provision for the custody and protection of children by enabling the magistrates to make more extensive use of reformatories in dealing with youthful offenders. The Act also empowered Government to establish industrial schools and to set up Juvenile Courts to obviate the association of children and young persons with adult criminals.

During the year under review sixteen Government Bills were introduced, of which eight were passed into law, two were withdrawn and one was rejected, and three private Bills, one of which was passed, one read a first time and referred to a select committee and one postponed.

In the Budget for 1925-26 which was under discussion in the Legislative Council for twelve days, cuts amounting to over 41 lakhs were made and there were eleven divisions, of which two were carried against Government. Of the twenty resolutions that were moved thirteen were carried, six were accepted by Government and seven were carried against Government.

There was an increase in the number of cases tried in the courts of the Presidency Proper of five thousand, the total being

313,000. Of these 151,000 were instituted during the year. The great majority of the suits were for amounts of less than Rs. 500. The total receipts of all the courts, civil and criminal, amounted to over 86 lakhs and the expenditure to nearly 46 lakhs.

Of the 206,000 criminal cases that came before the courts over 200,000 were dealt with by the magistrates. There were 169,000 convictions and in 140,000 cases the punishment inflicted was fine or forfeiture, an indication that the majority of the crime in the Presidency is of a petty character. Of the 16,392 persons sentenced to imprisonment only 2,200 received more than six months.

Police and Crime.—From the Police point of view the year 1924 was one of comparative tranquillity and, political tension being less, the police were able to spend most of their time and energy in discharging their more usual duties. The few remaining dacoits in Gujarat and in the Nasik, Satara and Bijapur districts were successfully rounded up. There was an increase in the total number of offences reported during the year of 7,312, making a total of 137,556, the great majority of the cases being of petty crime. The figures of reported serious crime showed a substantial decrease. Murders and attempts at murder dropped from 817 to 739, dacoities from 286 to 285, robberies from 878 to 745, house-breaking from 8,507 to 8,345, thefts including cattle thefts, from 13,281 to 13,194, and receiving stolen property from 919 to 825. The Presidency proper recorded considerable decreases in robberies, Kaira and Ahmedabad being chiefly responsible for this improvement. Turning to the incidence of crime for the year under report in the Presidency, inclusive of Sind, the figure for total reported cognizable crime under the Indian Penal Code per thousand of the population was 1·77 as against 1·79 for 1923. The ratio of incidence between the Presidency and Sind continued to be very similar, 1·40 for the former and 3·61 for the latter in 1924 as against 1·40 and 3·59 in 1923. The total serious crime also stood at nearly the same proportion, 1·05 for the Presidency proper and 2·58 for Sind. In the Presidency proper the Bombay Suburban District was

again the most criminal (5·05) and Ratnagiri the least criminal (0·31). In Sind the corresponding districts were again Karachi Headquarters (9·61) and Thar and Parkar (1·86). The Superintendent of Police for the Bombay Suburban District, however, points out that the population of the district is not criminally inclined. It is criminals who come from Bombay, who are responsible for the bulk of the offences credited to the district. There was a further drop in the number of undetected cases, the figure for the year under report being the lowest since 1918. The decrease, however, occurred entirely in Sind, the figures for the Presidency remaining unchanged. The Inspector-General in his report urges the establishment of a Detective Training College and the expansion of the Criminal Investigation Department so as to make it a central expert agency dealing with crime in its broader aspects. The sanctioned strength of the Police was 1,073 officers and 22,001 men and the total cost of the Force for the financial year 1924-25 was 133·46 lakhs, an increase of 7·78 lakhs. The average cost per policeman increased from Rs. 526-3-6 to Rs. 555-12-7.

Bombay City Police.—The year was practically free from any serious unrest except the mill strike which lasted from the middle of January to the middle of March 1924. During the latter end of the strike the men showed signs of getting out of hand and there were acts of incendiarism and rowdyism, although on the whole the strikers were remarkably peaceful and well-behaved. An examination of the statistics shows a substantial rise in crime since 1922, the figures for that year and for 1924 being 112,163 and 133,853. The bulk of the increase was, however, due to infractions of local acts and was attributed to the increased activity of the police in dealing with petty shopkeepers and hawkers and offenders against the Bombay Conveyance and Prevention of Gambling Acts, for there was a slight diminution in the police cognizable cases under the Indian Penal Code. In the number of cases of murder and attempts at murder there was a noticeable increase due chiefly to a larger number of cases of infanticide. A disquieting feature disclosed by the report was the fact that the number of serious offences against property which was abnormally high in 1923 showed a further slight

increase, and the number of cases of robbery was large. The High Court remarked in connection with a big dacoity case that there existed in Bombay City an underworld of criminals with a complete organisation and concealed arms. The deportation of bad characters from other parts of India, the registration of members of criminal tribes and the segregation in settlements of those who are habitual offenders together with the development of the patrol system are expected to have a good effect in checking serious crime of this nature.

Of the cases prosecuted 92·31 per cent. resulted in conviction and the total number of cases undetected worked out at only 5 per cent., an improvement in both cases over the previous year. The total value of property alleged to have been stolen amounted to Rs. 19·47 lakhs, a decrease of 3·38 lakhs over the previous year. The percentage of property recovered was 20·40.

The registration of motor traffic and the problems of traffic control continued to absorb the attention of the police in increasing measure, and a self-contained traffic control department has been instituted which is expected to secure a great improvement in traffic control. It is significant that there was a decrease in the number of motor accidents from 1,861 in 1923 to 1,641 in 1924 although, in the same period, the number of motor vehicles running in Bombay increased from 9,741 to 11,203.

Public Health.—In the year 1924 the death rate was 27·63 compared with 25·89 the year before and approximated very closely to the 1911—1915 mean of 27·56. The setback was mainly due to two factors, an unusually severe small-pox epidemic and the reappearance after a seven year interval of fulminant malaria in Sind. Neither of these factors indicate a reduction from the standard of general health that was reached in 1922. Sixty-five per cent. of the increase in mortality over the previous year's total was in deaths of infants while the year was equally unhealthy for the other extreme of life, ages 60 and upwards. The age periods 5-60 actually showed a lower rate of death than in the year preceding. The outstanding favourable feature of 1924 was the great reduction in mortality from plague. For a number of years now the heavy incidence of this disease has been confined to some five or six districts in

the Deccan and in the year under report East Khandesh, Satara, Belgaum and Dharwar contributed 65 per cent. of the mortality. Apart from Ratnagiri and Karachi City, the Konkan and Sind were almost free from the disease and Gujarat was entirely free. The birth rate exceeded the death rate by 7·7 per thousand and the infant mortality rate in the Presidency was 191 per thousand registered births as against 160 in 1923. The total number of deaths was 529,576 of which fevers were responsible for 214,568 and respiratory diseases for 91,183.

On an average nearly 2¾ million patients are treated every year in the dispensaries and hospitals of the Presidency which are maintained out of public, local or municipal funds or receive grants, the total number of such institutions being 637. Of the total number treated in the year under review 78,000 were in-patients and 2,676,000 were out-patients. There was a satisfactory increase in the number of patients treated at female hospitals, the figures being 112,245 compared with 102,100 in 1923. The practice of employing private medical practitioners on the teaching staff of the Poona and Ahmedabad medical schools continued to work well and the honorary principle was further extended to Bombay city and the larger hospitals in the mofussil. The total expenditure amounted to 51¾ lakhs.

Salt.—The issues of salt during 1924-25 amounted to 13,852,819 maunds, an increase of 3,842,000 over the previous year but sales during the year were abnormal, and a large portion of the removals from the salt works took place in April, May and June to replenish the depleted stocks of the wholesale and retail trade. The violent fluctuations were due largely to anticipated changes in the rates of duty. The effect of the reduction of the rate to Rs. 1-4-0 a maund was to decrease the revenue by nearly 52 lakhs. The average consumption of salt works out at just under 15 lbs. per head of the population.

Excise.—In February 1925 a Government Resolution was issued declaring that total prohibition was the ultimate goal of Government's Excise policy in the Bombay Presidency. Steps towards giving effect to this policy had been taken some years previously when the system of rationing was adopted with a consequent reduction in consumption. In the year under

review the consumption of country liquor showed a decrease of 128,000 gallons or 7 per cent. over the previous year and nowhere did the consumption reach the rationed quantity. Since the year 1919-20 the total reduction in consumption has amounted to 1,147,000 gallons or 40 per cent., yet, in spite of the reduced ration and decreased consumption, the receipts from fees for the right to retail country spirit at shops increased from Rs. 96·15 lakhs to Rs. 100·71 lakhs, a gain of over 4½ lakhs, owing to keen competition among bidders at the auctions. Twenty-four country liquor shops were closed, leaving at the end of the year 1,767. There was an increase of eight to six hundred and nine in the number of shops licensed exclusively for the sale of spirit 60° U.P.

The consumption of toddy decreased by 629,000 gallons. The reduction in the number of trees tapped was 32,916, and toddy licenses fell by 6,714 to 18,382. While the consumption of country liquor considerably declined, the reverse was the case with regard to foreign liquor, a situation which is a cause of some anxiety to Government. The sales of foreign liquor in the Presidency proper and Sind increased by 116,000 gallons, the reasons assigned being the preference shown by the working and middle classes for imported beer and other fermented liquors and for cheap foreign spirits mostly from Java and Germany on account of the high strength and low cost compared with country liquor.

The policy of raising by various means the price of country liquor helped towards increased consumption of foreign liquor; and to endeavour to meet this evil Government raised the scale of license fees for the sale of the latter.

A further reflection of Government's Excise policy was found in the increased use of illicit liquor. While from the nature of the case no direct proof of increased consumption of such liquor can be obtained, the fact that offences of illicit distillation increased from 1,148 in 1921-22 to 2,336 in 1924-25 is evidence of larger use and the experience of the Excise Department is that illicit distillation is on the increase.

The Excise Force of the Presidency has been increased but preventive establishments cannot be increased indefinitely. In

order to strike at the root of the evil, Government are considering the possibility of applying the Mhowra Act to the whole of the Presidency proper. Government have no intention of abandoning the policy of ultimate prohibition but, as was pointed out in a Resolution dealing with the Excise Report for 1924-25, Government do not under-rate the difficulties which stand in the way of the success of this policy, both administrative and financial, and it is essential for the consummation of the new policy that Government should be assured of the help of the Council in making up the loss of revenue which must be caused by the adoption of further measures towards the intended goal.

The total Excise revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 417·66 lakhs as against Rs. 420·76 lakhs in the previous year, a decrease of Rs. 3·10 lakhs.

In rural areas the *per capita* consumption in drams was 2·3 and in urban areas 12·8, compared with 2·4 and 14 respectively in the previous year.

Forests.—15,000 square miles or approximately 12 per cent. of the area in the Presidency is classified as forests and is worked by the Forest Department as a commercial undertaking. In the year 1924-25 there was a surplus of nearly 32½ lakhs, a result which has been exceeded only in two previous years 1916-17 and 1918-19, a satisfactory result which suggests that the period of depression started in 1920 is passing away. The outturn from all areas of forest produce during 1924-25 was: timber 5,888,000 cubic feet and fuel 43,777,000 cubic feet. Minor produce including bamboos, grass and grazing, etc., was valued at Rs. 12,68,000. Nearly 2½ million cattle were admitted to grazing in the forest lands and Rs. 5,64,000 were collected as grazing fees, although the value of grazing, had full rates been charged, would have been Rs. 21,75,000. The Forest Department also stores grass and at the end of the working season had nearly 30 million lbs. in storage in various parts of the Presidency.

Co-operative Movement.—The Co-operative Movement made satisfactory progress during the year. There was a good increase both in the number of members and in the working capital which now stand at nearly 4 lakhs and Rs. 711 lakhs

respectively. The total number of societies in the Presidency is now 4,126. Compared with last year the societies show an increase of 383 ; the number of members, of nearly 35,000 ; and the working capital, of about Rs. 92 lakhs. The increase is noticeable chiefly on the credit side of the Movement, especially agricultural credit, due to greater propaganda and better supervision. The deposits in the District Banks now amount to one crore of rupees, having doubled themselves within a period of two years. There is no doubt that these Banks have succeeded in gaining the confidence of the public and in consequence find no difficulty in securing the amount they require. The Provincial Bank also continued to be of great service to the Movement. One satisfactory feature of the working of these Banks was that they were able to invest a far larger amount in the Movement itself during the year than in the previous year. The Provincial Bank, for example, advanced Rs. 42 lakhs to Central Banks and Societies as against Rs. 27½ lakhs while its investments outside the Movement decreased from Rs. 24 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs. The Urban Societies similarly showed an advance both in membership and in working capital. There are 43 such Banks with a capital of more than Rs. 50,000, a few of them having a working capital exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs. Deposits from members in such Banks increased from Rs. 68 lakhs to Rs. 72 lakhs and they were able to finance petty trade and industry at a moderate rate of interest and at the same time to familiarize the people with banking methods. The amount received by the Urban and the District Banks by means of cheques exceeded Rs. 2¼ crores ; while the amount remitted by them by cheques was about the same.

Owing to the fact that better arrangements could be made for supervision and for the improvement of bad societies, the classification of these societies in audit showed a decided improvement and there was an appreciable drop in the amount of overdues.

On the non-credit side the Cotton Sale Societies were able to expand their business considerably, though owing to the low prices prevailing the cotton sold was worth only Rs. 46 lakhs. Non-credit societies which deserve mention are the Fencing

Societies, of which there are 9 at present registered. These societies have been able to render cultivable a considerable area of land which was either badly cultivated or was going out of cultivation owing to depradations by wild animals, especially pigs. The areas which are now fenced afford a good protection to the crops. In consequence the price of lands enclosed has gone up and the people who had left the villages are coming back to settle in them.

The Bombay Central Co-operative Institute, which focusses the non-official activities in the Presidency, continued to make a satisfactory progress and did a considerable amount of propaganda and training and helped in organization work and supervision. The construction of the Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Memorial Building to house the Institute was undertaken during the year and the building completed soon after its close. The Institute has now a habitation worthy of its name and position.

The Co-operative Societies Bill which was to have been taken up for the second reading in the September session of the Council was referred back to the Select Committee on account of the large number of amendments received. The consideration of the Bill could be taken up only in the July session of the Council after the close of the year and was then passed into law.

Public Works.—The inundation of 1924 in Sind was an excellent one, for the water supply in all the canals was more than required and the full level in them was maintained for a longer period than usual. Due to a very high level of the river Indus during the abkalani, breaches occurred which caused damage to crops and private property but steps were immediately taken to close the breaches and further damage was averted. Work on the Lloyd Barrage and Canals Scheme was devoted to the detailed surveys, levelling, aligning and designing of canals, acquisition of land, preparation of detailed plans and estimates for works and buildings, and indents for plants, construction of buildings, service roads, railways, sheds, erection and housing of plant and opening up of quarries on both banks of the river. The total expenditure during the year amounted to about Rs. 96 lakhs. Very satisfactory progress was made on irrigation works

under construction in the Deccan. The masonry dam of Lake Arthur Hill, the storage reservoir of the Pravara canals, is now ready with the exception of a few finishing touches. The whole scheme will be completed in 1925-26. The Nira Right Bank Canal when completed will be the largest in the Deccan. The project comprises the construction of a new masonry dam (Lloyd Dam) which will replace the existing dam and provide a supply to the old Left Bank Canal and the Right Bank Canal under construction pending the development of irrigation on the latter canal. The dam and the first 90 miles of this canal are expected to be completed in 1926. The rapid progress of construction in more recent years made it possible to commence irrigation during the year under review. The expenditure incurred on 'works' alone amounted to about Rs. 28 lakhs during the year.

Bombay Development Department.—During the year the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme and the Housing Scheme made steady progress. In the suburban area, however, most of the schemes were either curtailed or held in abeyance, on account of the slump in the property market. In August 1924 Government asked the Advisory Committee to consider and report how far and in what directions the activities of the Department should be continued or modified. On the recommendation of the committee it was decided to close down for the present the work on the East Colaba Reclamation.

On the Back Bay Reclamation by the close of the working season the mass concrete wall had been completed for the whole length of the rubble mound, and the wall finished in all respects except for a gap of 1,800 feet. The dry filling between the Marine Lines-Colaba Railway and the shore was almost completed by 31st March.

The main feature of the year's work of the dredging section was the combined pumping operations at Colaba with the dredger "Sir George Lloyd" worked in conjunction with the intermediate pumping station "Colaba". The maximum length of discharge pipe from the dredger to the outlet in the military area was 10,123 feet.

During the season, up to 31st March 1925 a total of some 13 lakhs cubic yards of material had been pumped ashore and deposited in the military area.

Dredging in the Back Bay with the " Kalu " was commenced on 28th November 1924, but owing to the insufficient depth of water at low tide, her operations were confined to a few hours at each high tide, so that very little progress was made at the end of the year.

By the end of the working season 259,555 square yards, or 53·6 acres, of the military area at Colaba had been filled with dredged material to within an average of 3 feet below the finished level.

Owing to the orders of Government that no further chawls should be commenced till those in hand were fully completed, the programme of industrial housing resolved itself into completing, as far as possible, the 211 chawls at the Worli, Naigaum, DeLisle Road and Sewri sites. At Worli the equivalent of about 45 chawls were constructed, while at Naigaum and DeLisle Road all the chawls were either wholly or almost completed. At Sewri the equivalent of 7½ chawls were completed but owing to difficulties connected with water-supply and drainage, only two chawls could be handed over for letting.

As regards Suburban Industrial Schemes, attention was chiefly directed to the scheme at Ambernath, where the Swedish Match Manufacturing Company started work during the year and a further area of 1·5016 acres was taken up for extensions which were finished by the end of the year.

With a view to awaken interest in suburban building, a scheme of financial aid known as the State-aided building scheme was inaugurated during the year. Under this scheme, Government advances three-fourths of the price of the plot and, in addition, up to half the cost of the bungalow, the borrower repaying the loan in 5, 10 or 15 years by monthly instalments with 6 per cent. interest. Extensive withdrawals from acquisition of land covering 982 acres in Trombay and 2,569 acres in Salsette took place during the year under review.

In all 13,065 square yards had been disposed of in the Danda scheme by the end of the year, out of a total of 80,806 square yards available.

The new railway station at Khar was opened in July 1924 and 43 trains now stop daily. The sales of plots proceeded briskly in one sector of this scheme, which is fully developed, and about 134,650 square yards had been disposed of by 31st March 1925 out of a total net area of 583,691 square yards for the whole scheme. The opening of the new railway station stimulated building activity, and a considerable number of houses have now been erected.

On the Chapel Road, Bandra Scheme, further sales of land took place during the year and only nine plots remained to be disposed of at the end of the year. The scheme showed a small surplus on 31st March 1925, which will be increased by the proceeds of the remaining plots when sold.

Twelve plots, aggregating 21,258 square yards, were disposed of at Kirol North, making a total area of 22,318 square yards sold in this scheme up to 31st March 1925.

In the remaining schemes no works were carried out and the schemes were held in abeyance.

The G. I. P. Railway increased the number of trains running between Kurla and Chembur. The negotiations with regard to the terms of working the line have led to a proposal that the G. I. P. Railway should take over this railway as a branch of their undertaking and extend it to Mandala. The terms of transfer are under consideration.

Meetings of the Advisory Committee were held as usual during the year, and, in addition, special meetings to consider the reference from Government referred to above. Sanction was accorded by Government to the payment of attendance fees to members of the Committee on the scale adopted by the Port Trust and the City Improvement Trust.

During the year nine meetings of the Sanitary Committee were held and the reclamation works were inspected on each occasion.

PART II

CHAPTER I

INDIAN STATES

THE territories under the rule of Indian Princes and Chiefs extend over an area of 28,562 square miles, or less than one-fourth of the entire area of the Presidency. The variety of the relations which, under the terms of the several treaties, subsist between the British Government and the rulers of the different States and the general superintendence exercised by Government as the Paramount Power, necessitate the presence of an Agent or representative at the principal Courts. The smaller and less important States are either grouped together under the general supervision of a Political Agent or are looked after by the Collectors of the districts within the local limits of which they may happen to be situated. The position of the Agent varies, roughly speaking, with the importance of the State. In some cases he does little more than give advice and exercise a general surveillance. In other cases Agents are invested with a direct share in the administration; while States in which the ruler is a minor are directly managed by Government Officers or under arrangements approved by Government. In connection with the administration of the two last named classes of States; a large amount of judicial work devolves on the Governor in Council, in criminal cases as a Court of Reference and Appeal, and in civil matters as a Court of Appeal. The supervision of all the Indian States in the Presidency, with the exception of Baroda, rested until October 1924 with the Government of Bombay. With effect, however, from the 10th October 1924, the States in the Cutch, Kathiawar and the Palanpur Agencies have been placed in direct political relations with the Government of India. The three Agencies have been combined into one, the Western India States Agency, and placed under a First Class Resident and Agent to the Governor-General, with headquarters at Rajkot. They are therefore not included in this review which deals with the administration of the Indian States in political relations with the Government of Bombay, arranged in groups according to their geographical position.

The Gujarat States fall into two groups. The North Gujarat States lie mostly to the North of the Narbada and include the Rewa Kantha, Mahi Kantha and Kaira Agencies. The South Gujarat States, which lie to the south of the Tapti, are those in the Surat Agency.

The Maratha States fall into four groups. The North and South Konkan groups lie below the ghats to the north and south of Bombay respectively. The Deccan and the Southern Maratha Country States are situated in the central and southern portions of the Bombay Deccan. The province of Sind contains one State. The Settlement of Aden, including Perim, directly administered by the Government of Bombay, is also included in this review.

The population of these states is about four millions and their revenue nearly five crores.

I. North Gujarat

1. MAHI KANTHA

Ruling Prince with a salute of 15 guns—

His Highness Maharaja Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Daulatsinhji Pratapsinhji, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Idar; *Residence*—Himatnagar; *Caste*—Rathod Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—48; *Educated* at the Nobles' School at Jodhpur and the Mayo College at Ajmere; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharana Shri Hamirsinhji Jasvatsinhji, Maharana of Danta; *Residence*—Danta; *Caste*—Parmar Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—56; *Educated* privately; *Has male heir.*

The Rao of Pol—

Rao Shri Hamirsinhji, Rao of Pol; *Residence*—Pol; *Caste*—Rathod Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—21; *Educated*—Scott College, Sadra.

Area—3,124 square miles; *Population (1921)*—450,478; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 21 lakhs; *Tribute to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda by Idar*—Rs. 30,340; *by small States and Talukas*—Rs. 91,328; *Principal articles of production*—Wheat, gram, cotton, bajri, jowari and all common grains, marble and chalk.

In addition to these three States, the Agency includes 49 small States and Talukas.

The rainfall was seasonable but the monsoon crops were slightly damaged by the late rains. The outturn of monsoon crops varied from 10 to 14 annas in the rupee, while that of the winter crops varied from 8 to 12 annas in the rupee. The supply of fodder was sufficient.

The total expenditure amounted to nearly Rs. 21 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 3 lakhs (the total strength of the Police in the Agency being 1,393); Prisons Rs. 10,000; Public Works Rs. 99,000; and Medical Relief Rs. 54,000.

The total number of schools was 155 with 10,206 pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 79,800.

2. REWA KANTHA

Ruling Prince with a salute of 13 guns—

Captain (Honorary) His Highness Maharana Shri Sir Vajayasinhji Chhatrasinhji, K.C.S.I., Maharaja of Rajpipla; *Residence*—Nandod (Rajpipla); *Caste*—Gohel Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—35; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun; *Has male heir.*

Ruling Princes with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharaval Shri Natwarsinhji Fatehsinhji, Raja of Chhota Udepur; *Residence*—Chhota Udepur; *Caste*—Chavan Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—18. *Is being educated* at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Captain (Honorary) His Highness Maharaval Shri Sir Ranjitsinhji Mansinhji, K.C.S.I., Raja of Baria; His Highness has a personal salute of 11 guns; *Residence*—Baria; *Caste*—Kichi-Chavan Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—39; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

His Highness Maharana Shri Sir Vakhatsinhji Dalelsinhji, K.C.I.E., Raja of Lunavada; His Highness has a personal salute of 11 guns; *Residence*—Lunavada; *Caste*—Solanki Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—65; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

Nawab Shri Jamiatkhanji Manvarkhanji, Babi of Balasinor; *Residence*—Balasinor; *Tribe and religion*—Babi Pathan, Suni Musulman; *Age*—31; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun; *Has no heir.*

Maharana Shri Jorawarsinhji Pratapsinhji, Raja of Sant; *Residence*—Sant; *Caste*—Puwar Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—44, *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

Area—4,956 square miles; *Population (1921)*—753,299; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 66½ lakhs; *Tribute to His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda*—Rs. 1,30,801; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 24,382; *Military Force*—1,761; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, wheat, bajri, jowari, cotton, maize, gram, mhowra (flower and seed) and timber; Akik (cornelian) stone in Rajpipla and Manganese in Chhota Udepur.

The Agency includes also 14 small States and 9 petty Estates.

Captain His Highness Maharana Shri Vijayasinhji, Maharaja of Rajpipla, was created a K.C.S.I. on 1st January 1925.

The rainfall was good and sufficient throughout the Agency. The outturn of crops was good. Frost damaged the winter crops to some extent in Rajpipla, but the damage was insignificant. The outturn of cotton was very satisfactory and the year on the whole was prosperous. In Bhadarva and Umetha a little damage was done to Tobacco crops by frost.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 68½ lakhs.

The total number of schools was 251 and the number of pupils 16,711.

3. CAMBAY

(KAIRA AGENCIES)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 11 guns—

His Highness Nawab Mirza Hussain Yavar Khan Saheb Bahadur, Nawab of Cambay, *Tribe and religion*—Moghal, Shia Musulman; *Age*—14. (The State is under administration.)

Area—350 square miles; *Population (1921)*—71,715; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 9,77,200; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 21,924; *Military Force*—152; *Principal articles of production*—Jowari, bajri, kodra, rice, wheat, cotton, pulses, oil-seeds and tobacco; *Manufactures*—Cotton and silk cloths, carpets, matches and articles of agate and cornelian stone.

The rain received during the year was quite satisfactory as compared with the average. It was very well distributed and so far as crops in general were concerned left little to be desired. The price realised for cotton and wheat was satisfactory and the outturn of cotton proved much better than was expected earlier in the season. The rainfall though generally satisfactory for the crops was at no time very heavy. Rice, therefore, had no chance and the tanks also did not fill. In consequence much difficulty about water-supply was experienced in the latter portion of the fair season.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 8 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 70,500 (the total strength of the Police being 221); Prisons Rs. 7,400; Public Works Rs. 1½ lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. 23,500.

The total number of schools was 57 with an average attendance of 4,081. The expenditure on education was Rs. 77,000. Education at all the primary schools in the Cambay State has been made free and compulsory in all village boys' schools and Antyaja school.

II. South Gujarat

(SURAT AGENCY)

1. DHARAMPUR, BANSDA AND SACHIN

Ruling Princes with a salute of 9 guns—

Maharana Shri Vijayadevji Mohandevji, Raja of Dharampur; *Residence*—Dharampur; *Caste*—Sisodia Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—41; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

Maharaval Shri Indrasinhji Pratapsinhji, Raja of Bansda; *Residence*—Bansda; *Caste*—Solanki Rajput, Hindu; *Age*—38; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

Major (Honorary) His Highness Nawab Sidi Ibrahim Muhammad Yakut Khan, Mubazarat Daula Nasrat Jang Bahadur, Nawab of Sachin. His

Highness the Nawab has a personal salute of 11 guns; *Residence*—Sachin; *Religion*—Suni Musulman; *Age*—39; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot, Mayo College, Ajmer, and Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun; *Has male heir.*

Area—968 square miles; *Population (1921)*—155,312; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 25¾ lakhs; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 9,154; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli, gram, pulse, jowari, sugarcane, molasses; *Manufactures*—Cotton cloth.

The season was generally favourable but excessive rains in August caused some damage to crops in the State of Dharampur.

The total expenditure was Rs. 25½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1 lakh (the total strength of the Police force being 427); Prisons Rs. 4,300; Public Works Rs. 5¾ lakhs; and Medical Relief Rs. ½ a lakh.

The total number of schools was 68, the number of pupils 4,574 and the expenditure Rs. 67,000.

2. THE DANGS

Area—999 square miles; *Population (1921)*—24,576; *Gross revenue including the subsidy of the Dangs Rajas*—Rs. 42,000.

A wild tract thickly covered with forest. The inhabitants belong almost entirely to the forest tribes, mostly Bhils. The rainfall was well distributed and the crops were excellent. The price of nagli was reduced from 4 champas to 6 champas per rupee. With the exception of a little rice and pulse, the crops are confined to the inferior varieties of mountain grains.

The principal item of expenditure was Public Works Rs. 12,500. As regards education the average number of pupils on roll was 273 with an average attendance of 204.

III. North Konkan

1. JAWHAR (THANA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns—

Second Lieutenant (Honorary) Raja Vikramshah Patangshah, Raja of Jawhar; *Caste*—Koli; *Age*—39; *Has male heir.*

Area—310 square miles; *Population (1921)*—49,662; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 5,55,384; *Tribute to British Government*—Nil; *Military Force*—Nil; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli, pulses and timber.

The State is populated mostly by hill tribes such as Kolis, Thakurs, Kathodis, etc. They are illiterate and backward and the Darbar is trying to improve their condition by the spread of education.

The rainfall was sufficient everywhere and the crops were good.

The total expenditure amounted to about Rs. 5 lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 13,000 (the total strength of the Police force being 70); Prisons Rs. 842; Public Works Rs. 38,000; and Medical Relief Rs. 7,500.

The total number of schools was 20 with a daily attendance of 432 children. Education is free in all these schools. The expenditure on education was Rs. 12,400.

2. SURGANA (NASIK AGENCY)

Ruling Chief—

Prataprao Shankarrao Deshmukh; *Residence*—Surgana; *Caste*—Maratha (Pawar) Hindu; *Age*—44; *Educated* in the Surgana State School; *Has male heir.*

Area—360 square miles; *Population (1921)*—14,912; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 55,000; *Tribute to British Government*—Nil; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nagli and timber.

The State contains 61 villages of which 46 are Khalsa and 15 alienated.

The population consists chiefly of Konkani Kunbis and Kolis living in small groups of thatched and mud houses, whose chief occupation is agriculture carried on in the most primitive fashion. They are much addicted to drink, but are peaceful and law-abiding.

The rainfall was more than last year. The crops were fair, cattle were in good condition, fodder was ample and the water supply sufficient. The prices of grain and cloth have slightly decreased but have not reached their normal level.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 54,000, the principal items being Police Rs. 3,000 (the total strength of the Police being 20); and Medical Relief Rs. 965.

There is only one primary school at Surgana with an attendance of 25 pupils. The expenditure was Rs. 300.

IV. South Konkan

1. JANJIRA (KOLABA AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 11 guns and, within State limits, of 13 guns—

His Highness Nawab Sidi Muhammad Khan Sidi Ahmed Khan; Nawab of Janjira; *Residence*—Murud, Janjira; *Tribe and religion*—Habshi, Suni Musulman; *Age*—11; Being educated at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Area—377 square miles; *Population (1921)*—98,530; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 7,72,000; *Military force*—240; *Articles of production*—Rice, nagli, cocoanut, betelnut, fish, bajri, jowari, cotton, hemp and sesamum.

During the Nawab's minority the State with the dependency of Jafrabad is being administered by his mother as Regent assisted by the State Dewan.

The monsoon on the whole was seasonable, the outturn of the crops being from 9 to 11 annas in the State proper and from 10 to 14 annas in Jafrabad.

The State had an import trade worth Rs. 23¾ lakhs and an export trade of Rs. 16¾ lakhs. The abkari and forest revenue was Rs. 1½ lakhs each.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 9½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 38,600 (the total strength of the police force being 179); Prisons Rs. 21,000; Public Works Rs. 86,000 and Medical Relief Rs. 21,000.

The total number of schools was 84. The expenditure on education was Rs. 53,000.

There is an Anjuman-i-Islam Institution at Murud supported from popular subscription for encouraging and spreading education in the Muhammadan community.

2. SAVANTVADI (BELGAUM AGENCY)

Ruling Prince with a salute of 9 guns and, within State limits, of 11 guns—Captain (Hony.) His Highness Raje Bahadur Shrimant Khem Savant Bhonsle *alias* Bapu Saheb, Sar Desai of Savantvadi; *Residence*—Savantvadi; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—27.

Area—925 square miles; *Population (1921)*—206,440; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 6,86,000; *Military force*—Nil; *Principal articles of production*—Rice, nachni, vari and cocoanuts; *Manufactures*—Khaskhas, gold-thread and beetle-wing embroidery, horn works, toys and other lacquered ware, etc.

The most important event in the history of the State that took place during the year under report was the assumption by His Highness of the administration of the State on 29th October, 1924.

The rainfall was little less than last year. The outturn of rice and nachni was annas 12 and 9 respectively.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 6¾ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 70,000 (the total strength of the police force being 323), Prisons Rs. 2,400, Public Works Rs. 84,000 and Medical Relief Rs. 40,000.

The total number of schools was 154 with 11,618 pupils. The expenditure on education was Rs. 81,000.

V. The Deccan

SATARA JAGHIRS

(SATARA AGENCY)

Ruling Chiefs—

Meherban Bhavanrao Shrinivasrao *alias* Bala Saheb, Pant Pratinidhi; *Residence*—Aundh; *Caste*—Deshastha Brahman, Hindu; *Age*—56; *Educated*—Bombay University; *Has male heirs.*

Lieutenant (Hony.) Meherban Malojirao Mudhojirao *alias* Nana Saheb Naik Nimbalkar; *Residence*—Phaltan; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—28; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

(POONA AGENCY)

Meherban Shrimant Raghunathrao Shankarrao *alias* Baba Saheb, Pant Sachiv; *Residence*—Bhor; *Caste*—Deshastha Brahman, Hindu; *Age*—46; *Educated* privately; *Has male heirs.*

(SHOLAPUR AGENCY)

Meherban Shrimant Vijayasinh Fatehsinh, Raje Bhonsle; *Residence*—Akalkot; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—9; Being educated at Akalkot.

(BIJAPUR AGENCY)

Meherban Ramrao Amritrao *alias* Aba Saheb Daphle; *Residence*—Jath; *Caste*—Maratha, Hindu; *Age*—40; *Educated*—Rajkumar College, Rajkot; *Has male heir.*

Area—3,301 square miles; *Population (1921)*—402,169; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 21,81,334; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 25,839; *Military force*—244.

In Aundh, Akalkot and Phaltan the season was, on the whole, fair; but in Bhor and Jath it was unfavourable and consequently the prices of food grains were little higher than last year in the latter two States.

Cholera and small-pox cases occurred at Akalkot.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 23¾ lakhs, the principal items being Police 92,000 (the total strength of the police force being 624), Prisons Rs. 15,160; Public Works Rs. 2½ lakhs and Medical Relief Rs. 13,000.

The number of schools was 209 and the number of pupils 12,460. The expenditure on education was Rs. 1½ lakhs.

VI. Kolhapur and Southern Maratha Country States

1. KOLHAPUR

Ruling Prince with a salute of 19 guns—

His Highness Shri Sir Rajaram Chhatrapati Maharaj, G.C.I.E., Maharaja of Kolhapur; *Residence*—Kolhapur; *Caste*—Kshatriya, Maratha; *Age*—28; *Educated* in England and Ewing College, Allahabad.

Area—3,217 square miles; *Population (1921)*—833,726; *Tribute to British Government*—Nil; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 84,62,000; *Military force*—699; *Principal articles of production*—Jowari, rice, cotton, tobacco, sugarcane, groundnuts, etc.; *Manufactures*—Coarse cotton and woollen cloths, pottery and hardware.

The high distinction of G.C.I.E. was conferred on His Highness on the occasion of His Majesty the King Emperor's Birthday on the 3rd June 1924. On the 8th August 1924, His Highness as President of the Deccan Education Society visited Sangli for the opening ceremony of the Willingdon College. His Highness made a donation of Rs. 30,000 to erect a hall in the college to be named after his revered father, His late Highness Shri Sir Shahu Chhatrapati Maharaja, the former President of the said Society.

The condition of both the kharif and rabi crops was fairly satisfactory. The supply of water, fodder and grains was sufficient in all the parts of the State. The prices of staple food-grains were lower, but high wages prevailed as during last year. The condition of the labourers was good.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 73¾ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 1⅓ lakhs (the total strength of the police force being 829), Prisons Rs. 47,000, Public Works Rs. 5 lakhs and Medical Relief Rs. 71,000.

The total number of schools was 656, the number of pupils 37,943 and the expenditure Rs. 3¾ lakhs. Education in all the Primary Schools in Kolhapur proper, except in the capital, has been made free and compulsory.

2. SOUTHERN MARATHA COUNTRY STATES

The Southern Maratha Country States consist of the Mudhol, Sangli, Jamkhandi, Miraj (Senior), Miraj (Junior), Kurundwad (Senior), Kurundwad (Junior) and Ramdurg States. The Rulers of the two States, who have salutes of 9 guns, are :—

1. *Mudhol*—Second-Lieutenant (Honorary) Meherban Sir Malojirao Venkatrao Raje Ghorpade *alias* Nana Saheb, K.C.I.E., Raja of Mudhol; *Age*—40.

2. *Sangli*—Lieutenant (Honorary) Meherban Sir Chintamanrao Dhundirao *alias* Appa Saheb Patwardhan, K.C.I.E., Chief of Sangli; *Age*—35.

Area—3,032 square miles; *Population (1921)*—608,294; *Tribute to British Government*—Rs. 1,87,754; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 40,30,600.

The annual rainfall was just sufficient and the season on the whole better than in the previous year. The supply of drinking water was adequate. The prices of food-grains were lower than last year. The condition of the labouring classes was fair.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 66½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 3¼ lakhs (the total strength of the Police force being 1,645); Prisons Rs. 43,000; Public Works Rs. 4 lakhs, and Medical Relief Rs. 90,000.

The total number of schools was 461 with a daily attendance of 25,280. The expenditure on education was Rs. 3⅓ lakhs.

3. SAVANUR (DHARWAR AGENCY)

Ruling Chief—Captain (Honorary) Meherban Abdul Majidkhan Dilerjang Bahadur, Nawab of Savanur; *Residence*—Savanur (Dharwar); *Tribe and religion*—Pathan, Musulman; *Age*—34; *Has male heir.*

Area—70 square miles; *Population (1921)*—16,830; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 1,70,300; *Principal articles of production*—Sadis, cholis and country blankets.

The population of the State consists mostly of agriculturists. The rainfall was sufficient. Paddy crops were exceptionally good. The price of the fodder was lower than in the last year. The labouring classes were well-off as they got sufficient work and wages in gardens and fields. The stock of fodder was sufficient and the supply of drinking water was adequate.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 2¼ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 9,400 (the total strength of the police force being 48); Prisons Rs. 1,800; Public Works Rs. 40,000 and Medical Relief Rs. 3,300.

The total number of schools was 14 and the expenditure Rs. 13,100.

VII. Sind

KHAIRPUR

Ruling Prince with a salute of 15 guns and, within State limits, of 17 guns—His Highness Mir Ali Nawaz Khan Talpur, Mir of Khairpur; *Residence*—Kot-Diji; *Tribe and religion*—Talpur, Baluch, Musulman; *Age*—41; *Educated*—Aitchison Chiefs' College, Lahore.

Area—6,050 square miles; *Population (1921)*—193,152; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 28,70,292; *Military force according to the re-organisation scheme*—352; *Principal articles of production*—Fuller's earth, carbonate of soda, cotton, wool, ghee, hides, tobacco and indigo; *Manufactures*—Cloth, leather, ivory work, metal work, cutlery, cotton, silk and woollen goods, ivory, metal and lacquer wood work, glazed pottery and carpets.

The season was fair. The total area under cultivation was 200,000.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 29½ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 64,000 (the total strength of the police force being 259); Prisons Rs. 14,000; Public Works about Rs. 3 lakhs and Medical Relief Rs. 36,000.

The total number of schools was 150 with an average daily attendance of 4,761·91.

VIII. Aden

Area (including Perim)—80 square miles; *Population (1921)*—56,500; *Gross revenue based on five years' average*—Rs. 1,27,56,701.

The Political Resident at Aden administers the Settlement of Aden and the Island of Perim.

The Settlement of Aden comprises the following divisions: (1) The Peninsula and Isthmus or Aden proper, (2) Sheikh Othman and (3) Little Aden.

Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Scott, K.C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., held charge of the Residency from 1st April to 28th May 1924, and again from 14th September 1924 to 18th February 1925. Major C. C. J. Barrett, C.S.I., C.I.E., acted as Resident from 29th May to 13th September 1924 and Major-General J. H. K. Stewart, C.B., D.S.O., from the 19th February to 31st March 1925.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 90⅓ lakhs, the principal items being Police Rs. 2 lakhs; Prisons Rs. 25,000 and Public Works Rs. 78,000.

The total number of Government schools was 5 and the number of pupils 411. The number of private schools was 48 and the number of pupils 2,140. The total expenditure on education was Rs. 15,000.

Condition of the People

The year was, on the whole, favourable, and the rainfall was sufficient in almost all the States. The outturn of crops was good and the prices of staple food-grains were lower than those of last year, but high wages continued during the year. The fodder and water supply was adequate and the condition of the agricultural stock was good, though Rinderpest broke out in the Jawhar, Savanur and Dangs States. There was no serious epidemic during the year except that Plague, Cholera and Small-pox prevailed in a mild form in a few villages of the States of Kolhapur, Jawhar and Akalkot. The health of the people was generally good.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

LAND RECORDS

THE functions of the Land Records Department are to provide statistics necessary for sound administration in all matters connected with the land, to reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in the Revenue and Civil Courts, to provide a Record of Rights for the protection of all who hold interests in land and lastly to simplify and cheapen periodical settlement operations.

The Land Records staff consists of a Director of Land Records, who is also Settlement Commissioner, four Superintendents of Land Records, District Inspectors and Circle Inspectors. The function of the Director of Land Records has been limited to inspection and advice, and he has been expressly excluded from control over the district establishments, which are subordinated to the Collectors.

A complete record of rights and interests in lands has been prepared for all unalienated villages throughout the Presidency and steps are being taken to prepare it for alienated villages also. The record has proved of very great value to the land revenue administration and to the public at large who were not slow in realising its importance as an authentic record of their titles.

City surveys form an important part of land records. Such surveys have now been introduced in Bombay City and in most of the important cities and towns in the Presidency. The progress of this work is being maintained. Suitable arrangements have also been made for the maintenance of city survey records after completion. In Bombay a special office, *viz.*, the Bombay City Survey and Land Records Office, does this work under the control of the Collector of Bombay.

On account of the close connection which necessarily exists between the record of rights and the deed registration which is the business of the Registration Department, the offices of the Director of Land Records and Inspector General of Registration are placed under the control of one officer who holds both appointments. This officer also exercises general control over the work of the Photozincographic Press at Poona.

REVENUE SURVEYS

The following extract from a Government Resolution reviewing the last progress report of the Survey Commissioner in 1901 shows the nature

and importance of the survey and the principles upon which Land Revenue assessment is based :—

" The value of the services rendered to the State by the Survey Department can hardly be exaggerated. At the time when the existing system was introduced, that is to say, about 60 years ago, Government were still confronted with the formidable problem of settling upon an equitable and workable basis the revenue demand for a vast number of small holdings. Several modes of settlement, based on pre-existing practice, had been tried, some of them, such as the Pringle settlement, had disastrously failed. Out of the prevailing confusion the principles of the existing system of survey settlement were evolved by the genius of Messrs. Wingate and Goldsmid, the authors of the celebrated Joint Report. Upon the principles laid down in that report has been founded a system of land tenure and assessment admirably adapted to the requirements of the widely varying conditions of the different parts of the Presidency. Under the system of measurement and classification by subordinate agency, subject to the test of technically trained and skilled supervising officers, methods were employed by which the area of every one of these small holdings could be measured, and the relative productive capacity of the soil estimated with scientific accuracy. By the system of grouping the relative economic and climatic advantages of different tracts were duly taken into account. In this manner the equitable distribution of the assessment was secured. The rates charged at the original settlement per acre of land occupied were in many instances extraordinarily low as compared with those previously levied.

" But as anticipated by the framers of the system the effect of the fixed tenure and of a certain and moderate assessment was at once seen in a rapid expansion of cultivation, which even at the low rates of assessment sanctioned yielded a large increase of revenue. The extensive areas of waste land existing at the time when the system was introduced have been employed largely for the growth of crops valuable for export purposes. Despite the check occasioned by many bad seasons and several disastrous famines and notwithstanding the heavy burden of indebtedness with which the agricultural population was saddled from the first, the value of land and the prosperity of the country, and with them the revenue have steadily increased. When the first leases of 30 years expired, it was found possible to increase the assessment by very substantial amount; but the enhancements have, with rare exceptions, been borne without difficulty.

" The Survey Department has cost the State from first to last many lakhs of rupees. But the outlay has been repaid over and over again. One peculiar merit of the system deserves mention. By the division of the whole culturable area into what may be called units of assessment, the extension of cultivation was made to carry with it an increase of revenue,

while the revenue payer was placed in a position to ease his burden by giving up the occupation of lands unprofitable to him. The extensions of cultivation which have occurred have thus been profitable to the State no less than to the individual; whereas under a zemindari or kindred system, the State would have gained nothing however much cultivation had extended throughout the whole of 30 years' leases.

"But it has not been only as a revenue producing instrument that the Survey Department has proved its usefulness. The system to which the valuation of soil has been reduced is in many respects unique, and has resulted in a record of that valuation complete for innumerable small parcels of land. Probably no other province or country is possessed of any similar record. Its chief and immediate value for administrative purposes is that it enables field operations to be entirely dispensed with in all future settlements. The change of assessment can be decided for a whole tract on a review of its economic condition and revenue history and the people are saved from all the uncertainty and harassment consequent upon enquiry into the circumstances of individual holdings. The greatest credit attaches to the founders of this system, which has stood the test of experience and practical application in the most satisfactory manner. Developments have been introduced, but in no particular have the principles, and in very few have even the individual rules and directions laid down in the Joint Report been widely departed from."

Comparative valuations in the fertility of soils were expressed for convenience of handlings in parts of a rupee, 16 annas representing the valuation of a perfect field, from which deductions were made for faults, such as slope or irregularity of surface, excess of lime or moisture, or inferiority in the character of depth of the soil. This at least was the arrangement introduced under the joint rules. As time went on, experience showed the advisability of making allowances for advantages by making additions to the scale which carried the maximum above 16 annas. An example of this is the advantage that may be derived by land by the deposit on it of fine silt owing to flooding or from proximity to a stream on the bank of which a well can be dug from which the land can be irrigated.

THE RECORD OF RIGHTS

Two important improvements which have in recent years been introduced into the revenue administration of this Presidency may be described. The first is the *Record of Rights*. The Record prepared by the Survey Department was necessarily a fiscal record, the object of which was to show from whom the assessment was due and what that assessment was. It was not a record of rights or title. In course of time it was found that a Record of Right based on possession, if not on title, was indispensable for the needs of the administration, more especially

because the occupants in this Presidency, unlike tenants elsewhere, to whom in status they correspond, had an unrestricted right of transfer. The necessity of having such a record was pressed upon this Government by the Government of India and after a great deal of discussion regarding its suitability to this Presidency it was resolved in 1901 to prepare an initial record designed to show in accurate detail exactly how the land was held, because the revenue records gave only partial and in some respects misleading information on the point. The record was intended to show every right from that of a registered occupant to an annual tenant-at-will.

The experiment so started in select talukas was found to be successful, showing as it did that the preparation of a record was possible and would be welcomed by the people. With a view to give a legal character to the record, to compel persons acquiring new rights to give information of it to the revenue authorities, and to require the Civil Courts to insist on the production of extracts from the Record in civil suits tried by them which relate to land, it is laid down in the Land Revenue Code that a complete initial record showing all varieties of right in the land should be prepared by the Village-Accountants, examined and checked by the officers of the Revenue and Land Records Departments and announced to the ryot. Provision has been made in the Act and the Rules under it that the Record after its completion and announcement should be accurately maintained by what is called the Mutation Register. The Record has now been prepared in all Government villages and some alienated villages of the Presidency, and is being maintained and kept up to date by Mutation Registers. Its preparation has placed at our disposal a large amount of important information regarding the various rights in land and the profits of cultivation, and has proved extremely useful. The whole system of village accounts is now based on the Record of Rights.

REMISSIONS OF REVENUE

The second important feature that has been imported into the revenue system of this Presidency is a regular system of suspensions and remissions of land revenue when the crops fall below a certain standard or when the water-supply on the irrigated lands fails. The assessment fixed under Survey Settlement is a fixed demand and represents the revenue payable on an average in a series of years, the original idea being that on an average the rayat saves in a good year sufficient to enable him to pay the assessment without borrowing in a bad year. Experience, however, showed that among the smaller landholders and in tracts subject to frequent vicissitudes of the season this idea was fallacious, and in 1906-07 a regular system of suspensions and remissions was introduced. The system authorises the Collector, when he has ascertained by local enquiries that, owing to a partial or total failure or destruction of crops throughout

any tract, suspension of the collection of land revenue is necessary, to grant suspensions according to a scale to all occupants, agriculturists and non-agriculturists alike, without enquiry into the circumstances of individuals. As regards remissions, the grant of them depends on the character of three seasons following that in which the assessment is suspended. Ordinarily suspended arrears which are more than three years old are to be remitted by the Collector. The remissions are to be granted to occupants cultivating their own holdings and also to non-cultivating occupants, provided that when land is cultivated by tenants, corresponding remission is granted by the superior holder or landlord to the inferior holder or tenant.

SYSTEM OF LAND TENURE

In the Bombay Presidency outside Sind the land revenue system is with few exceptions *ryotwari, i.e.*, a system of settlement with the rayats, or cultivators of small holdings whose revenue payments are fixed after careful measurement and classification of the land in their possession. The maximum and usual term of settlement is thirty years.

At the conclusion of the term of settlement the land revenue payable is liable to revision ; but the holder has the right of occupancy in perpetuity provided he pays the assessment as revised from time to time ; and this right is heritable and transferable. This is known as the full survey tenure and is that on which land is ordinarily held. The position of the occupant is thus more secure than it was before the advent of the British Government. In earlier times, it is true, the hereditary occupant or mirasdar held land on terms which precluded its forfeiture on failure to pay the revenue demand unless he absented himself for a term of over thirty years. But on the other hand he was liable to extra and arbitrary impositions and was responsible for the default of neighbouring mirasdars, while his lien on the land was also conditional on his reimbursing all arrears due and expenses incurred during default.

Moreover, before the days of the British Government land would not sell for more than two or three years' purchase and could not be mortgaged for more than half the gross yearly produce, whereas to-day the price realised for land varies from twenty-five to 100 or more times the assessment.

It should be noted, too, that it is laid down in the Land Revenue Code that " In revising assessments of land revenue regard shall be had to the value of land and, in the case of land used for the purpose of agriculture, to the profits of agriculture ; provided that if any improvement has been affected in any land during the currency of any previous settlement..... by or at the cost of the holder thereof, increase in the value of such land or in the profit of cultivating the same due to the said improvement, shall not be taken into account in fixing the revised assessment."

A modification of the full survey tenure is known as the restricted tenure, which was introduced in 1901 and enables the Collector to grant the occupancy of land subject to the condition that the occupant must not alienate it without his permission.

Sind.—In Sind the ordinary tenure is the full survey tenure already described. The assessment is fixed by the method of " irrigational settlement " where assessment is based entirely on the mode of irrigation adopted which varies in different talukas and in different groups of villages. This has the merit of leaving it to the farmer to choose the best method of irrigation, season by season, according to the height of the river and the water-supply available. Under this system also the occupants are liable for the full assessment on each survey number when cultivated but the size of the numbers has been reduced so as to render it possible for each number to be cultivated with one pair of bullocks. The occupants are also permitted to retain their rights over all their lands when lying fallow but to prevent abuse of a privilege an assessment is charged at least once in five years. Practically assessment is now levied on cultivation only to the great benefit of the zamindars and of the revenue.

There are 55 talukas at present under Irrigational Settlements. In the desert of Thar Parkar (4 talukas) and in the extensive hilly tract of Karachi District adjoining Baluchistan special arrangements exist for levying a very light assessment, no fixed settlement having been made.

There are few tenant rights in existence in Sind. The smaller zamindars cultivate for themselves and the larger through yearly tenants who almost always pay the superior a proportion of the crop in cash for the privilege of cultivating, the zamindar being responsible for the assessment. The share paid varies from a quarter to a half according to the difficulty and expense of cultivating. The practice of leasing land on cash rent is slowly growing.

In the province of Sind Government have decided that the period of settlement should normally be twenty years except in areas where important projects are under consideration.

GUJARAT TALUKDARS' ACT

Under the provisions of various Acts including the Gujarat Talukdars' Act, the Court of Wards Act, Guardian and Wards Act, etc., Government is empowered to take over the management of estates whose owners by reason of minority, incapacity, etc., are not considered capable of looking after them. A large number of these are in the Ahmedabad district where in all there are 72 estates managed by the Collector who is the Talukdari Settlement Officer.

The revenue demand including past arrears was over Rs. 6½ lakhs, out of which about Rs. 5½ lakhs were recovered.

The total rent of the estates under management including arrears of past years was Rs. 4¼ lakhs, out of which Rs. 2¾ lakhs were collected and Rs. 22,716 written off. This sum includes the remissions granted to the estates' tenants and the allowances paid to the Talukdars for maintenance.

There were 15 Kumars receiving education at the Talukdari Hostel at Dhandhuka at the close of the year as against 22 last year.

More than one-fifth of the estates were released from management during the year. Efforts are being made to withdraw management from many more estates and to ensure that Talukdars have the same facilities for credit as other landowners.

SIND INCUMBERED ESTATES ACT

The Sind Incumbered Estates Act of 1881 was passed by the Government of India in order to amend the law providing for the relief of Jagirdars and Zamindars in Sind and this Act was further amended in 1896. The management of such estates in Sind is undertaken upon an application by the landholders and a Special Officer designated " Manager, Sind Incumbered Estates " has been appointed to supervise the management of these estates under the control of the Commissioner in Sind. There has been a steady decrease in the number of estates under management in recent years, the number in 1924-25 being 146 against 278 in 1911-12 and 292 in 1915-16. The estates are leased to outsiders or to estate owners, but generally to the owners whenever this is possible.

Twenty new estates were taken under management and 29 were released, leaving 137 under management at the close of the year. The revenue was about 10½ lakhs and the cost of management fell from 8·26 per cent. to 6·16 per cent.

THE COURT OF WARDS ACT

The Bombay Court of Wards Act was passed in 1905. Under this Act the Commissioners of Divisions are the Courts of Wards for the limits of their Divisions. With the sanction of Government, they assume superintendence of estates of landholders who, on account of minority or physical or mental defect or infirmity, are not qualified to manage the property and also on application by the landholders of estates that are heavily indebted. Suitable arrangements are also made for the education of minor wards.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS

The main function of the Department is to maintain all survey and classification records up-to-date, and for this purpose to carry out the necessary field operations preliminary to incorporating changes in these records. It has further to organise and carry out rural and city surveys on an extensive scale and maintain them in a state of usefulness. Special surveys for private individuals or bodies such as relate to Inam villages, etc., and surveys on

behalf of other departments of Government and Indian States are also frequently undertaken. The supervision of the preparation and maintenance of the Record of Rights, and the periodical inspections of boundary marks also fall within its scope.

ROUTINE MEASUREMENT WORK

Northern Division.—Nineteen Cadastral surveyors and 6 District surveyors were employed throughout the year, while 4 Cadastral surveyors were employed for three months. Four city survey maintenance surveyors were also employed on this work for 2½ months. They measured 16,961 new hissas and 1,888 survey numbers on private application and 1,348 survey numbers belonging to Government. The total cost of the staff was about Rs. 27,600 and the fees earned by them (including fees for Government work on the scale charged to the public) were about Rs. 33,500.

Central Division.—Forty-five Cadastral surveyors and 7 District surveyors were employed throughout the year. They measured 10,525 new hissas and 5,023 survey numbers and 10,425 hissas on private application and 3,304 survey numbers and 2,582 hissas belonging to Government. The cost of the staff was Rs. 50,000 and fees earned by them (including cost of Government work) amounted to Rs. 45,600.

A temporary staff of 208 hands including nimtandars under two Survey Mamlatdars was employed on original sub-division measurement work. In all 115,631 sub-divisions were measured.

Southern Division.—Twenty-three permanent and 22 temporary Cadastral surveyors and 6 District surveyors were employed during the year. They measured 21,364 new hissas and 4,968 survey numbers on private application and 3,972 survey numbers belonging to Government. The total cost of the establishment was Rs. 45,400 and fees earned by them including cost of Government work were Rs. 45,900.

Besides the above staff 5 parties of 50 measurers supervised by a Survey Mamlatdar measured 27,540 hissas in 69 villages of Karjat and Mahad talukas of Kolaba district, and 2,568 hissas in one Government and two inam villages of Ratnagiri district.

Sind.—Of the city surveys so far completed, the maintenance work of Shikarpur, Garhi Yasin, Sukkur, Rohri and Hyderabad city surveys continued to be done. Maintenance establishments for the city surveys of Larkana and Jacobabad were also sanctioned. In all 21,629 properties and 1,255 theodolite stations were reviewed.

The Superintendent of Land Records in Sind tested the work of all city surveys including Karachi. He also tested 240 survey numbers measured by the village establishment and the survey establishment connected with the Lloyd Barrage work.

Bombay Suburban Division.—One hundred and thirteen correction cases and 801 miscellaneous cases affecting 915 survey numbers were disposed of by the District Survey Office during the year.

REVENUE SURVEYS

Northern Division.—Five field-party surveyors were employed in Gujarat during the year. They examined the classification of rice lands in Sanand taluka of Ahmedabad; surveyed and classed lands in the Talukdari estates of Panch Mahals which had been brought under cultivation since the last settlement, etc. In Thana two field-party surveyors were employed who carried out work in connection with land acquired for District Local Board roads, village site surveys, etc.

Central Division.—One field party consisting at first of 41 hands under a head surveyor was employed on the survey of inam villages in Satara, Poona and Nagar districts.

Southern Division.—Ten permanent and eleven temporary surveyors were employed during the year.

Bombay Suburban Division.—The surveying staff, consisting of 1 District surveyor, 4 circle inspectors and 5 surveyors from the Salsette Development Office carried out 312 measurement cases in 681 survey numbers and 8 classification cases in 11 survey numbers.

CITY SURVEYS

Northern Division.—City surveys of Surat, Prantij, Hansot, Bassein, Halol and revision of Rander city survey were completed. New city surveys of Kalol, Vejalpur, Jhalod, Umbergaon and Nargol were taken up and completed. Twenty-three city surveys are under regular maintenance.

Central Division.—During the year the city surveys of Trimbak and Raver were completed, and those of Yaval, Malegaon, Lonavla and Mahableshwar are in progress. Twenty-eight city surveys are under regular maintenance.

Southern Division.—Enquiry work at Panvel was completed. City survey and enquiry in Uran, Nargund, Indi, Roha and Alibag were completed. No new city surveys were taken up. Thirteen city surveys are under regular maintenance.

General Remarks.—City-survey maintenance staff in large towns earn sufficient revenue to pay their cost; but in smaller towns such is not the case. To remedy this to some extent in small towns the maintenance surveyor is put in charge of two or more towns, transferring some of the routine work to the sub-registrars of those towns. The scheme is being tried in 14 towns of Northern Division, 6 towns of Central Division and 10 towns of Southern Division.

REVISION SETTLEMENTS

Temporary revised rates sanctioned by the Settlement Commissioner for inam villages of Newasa Budruk, Usthal Dumala, Ranjangaon, Dongaon, Kolegaon and Miri in Newasa taluka and Tarkhede, Abhanpur Khurd, Abhanpur Budruk and Kakarde in Shahada taluka and Gondegaon in Pachora taluka were confirmed by Government. Government also passed orders on the revision settlement of Government lands in the inam village of Karade Budruk in Panvel taluka.

WASTE LANDS

The following table shows the area under cultivation in the Province :—

1924-25

(In thousands of acres)

Division	Total culturable area	Occupied	Balance culturable waste
Northern Division	4,910	4,452	458
Central Division	14,351	13,957	394
Southern Division	7,837	7,604	233
Sind	14,558	8,316	6,242
Bombay Suburban Division	32	25	7
Total ..	41,688	34,354	7,334

CHAPTER III

LAW AND JUSTICE

THE passing of the Government of India Act of 1919 and the inauguration of the Reforms radically changed the procedure with regard to legislation. The power of making laws "for the peace and good government of the Bombay Presidency" is still vested in the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bombay. But that body, as now constituted, is very different, both in its composition and its powers from the old Council, which consisted of 47 members, of whom only 21 were elected, not as now directly but by local bodies or by special classes.

It now consists of 111 members. The four Members of the Executive Council are *ex-officio* members, and of the remaining 107, 86 are elected and 21 nominated. Of the nominated members not more than 18 may be officials, but the present number of officials is 13 only. The elected members are elected as follows :—

	Members
General constituencies—	
Mahomedan Rural	22
Mahomedan Urban	5
Non-Mahomedan Rural	35
Non-Mahomedan Urban	11
European	2
Special constituencies—	
Land-holders	3
Commerce and Industry	7
Bombay University	1
Total ..	86

Of the members of the non-Mahomedan constituencies 7 must be Marathas.

All British subjects of either sex who are over the age of 21 years and possess the necessary property qualification are, subject to certain minor exceptions, entitled to vote in general contituencies. The Government of Bombay has also power to permit subjects of Indian States to be enrolled as electors. The property qualification is fixed by Rules under the Government of India Act and is based, in the case of land, upon the amount of land revenue, and in the case of houses upon the annual rental; in each case tenants as well as landlords are qualified to vote. Besides these all income tax payers and all retired soldiers of His Majesty's regular

forces are enfranchised by the same Rules. A general election ordinarily takes place every three years. Before taking his seat every member must make an oath or affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown.

Legislative.—The extent of the power of the Council to make laws is defined by section 80A of the Government of India Act. Generally it may make laws for the peace and good government of the territories constituting the Presidency of Bombay, but certain bills cannot be introduced without the previous sanction of the Governor General. The most important of these are :—

(*a*) Bills imposing new taxes, except certain taxes specified in Rules made under the Act such as taxes on non-agricultural land and on amusements, succession duties and judicial stamp duties ;

(*b*) Bills affecting the public debt of India or any taxes the proceeds of which go to the Government of India ;

(*c*) Bills affecting the navy, army or air force ;

(*d*) Bills affecting the relations of Government with foreign princes or states ;

(*e*) Bills regulating a " central " subject.

Central subjects are subjects of vital importance or subjects on which it is desirable that policy should be uniform throughout India. Some of the most important are external relations, defence of India, shipping, railways, posts and telegraphs, currency, civil and criminal law, commerce, all sources of all-India revenue and the all-India services. Again under section 80-C of the Government of India Act a bill affecting the public revenue of the province of Bombay or imposing any charge upon it, cannot be introduced without the previous sanction of the Governor.

THE BUDGET

The annual Budget is presented to the Council during February. Previous to presentation it has been examined by the Finance Committee of the Council. This committee, which consists at present of 12 elected members, 4 nominated members and the Members of the Executive Council and Ministers, is not statutory but is constituted annually by motion made in the Council. The elected members are elected by the Council immediately after motion is carried and its functions are advisory only.

The Budget is divided into voted and non-voted items. All items under the following heads are, under section 72-D of the Government of India Act, non-voted :—

(*i*) contributions payable by the local government to the Governor-General in Council ;

(*ii*) interest and sinking fund charges on loans ;

(*iii*) expenditure of which the amount is prescribed by or under any law ;

(*iv*) salaries and pensions of persons appointed by or with the approval of His Majesty or by the Secretary of State in Council ; and

(*v*) salaries of judges of the High Court of the province and of the Advocate-General.

All other items are voted. But if the Governor certifies that any demand relating to a reserved subject, which has been either reduced or refused by vote of the Council, is essential to the discharge of his responsibility for that subject the reduction or refusal of the Council becomes void.

By Rule 33 of the Rules of the Legislative Council a Committee on Public Accounts is constituted to deal with the audit and appropriation accounts of the province. The committee consists of 12 members of whom 8 are elected by the non-official members of the Council, and the remainder nominated. The Finance Member is *ex-officio* chairman.

RESOLUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

After non-official bills and motions to amend Standing Orders have been disposed of, any member may during the remaining time allotted to non-official business move a resolution on a matter of general public interest. Fifteen clear days' notice of such resolution must be given before moving.

Every resolution must be in the form of a recommendation to Government. The Governor may disallow a resolution on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest or that it is not primarily the concern of the local Government.

No resolution may be moved on any matter which affects the relations of Government with any foreign or Indian State, or relates to the internal administration of any Indian State, or is *sub-judice*.

Questions for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public concern may be asked provided that 10 clear days' notice of the question is given. A question may be disallowed on any of the grounds on which a resolution on the subject might have been disallowed, and also on certain other grounds of which the most important are that it must not contain a suggestion for particular action, nor ask for an opinion.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

Acts passed.—In the period between the 1st of April 1924 and the 31st March 1925 fourteen Acts were passed by the Legislative Council of the Government of Bombay and having received the assent of their Excellencies the Governor and Governor General became law.

The Acts were as follows :—

(1) Act No. I of 1924 (An Act to amend the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1920) was passed with the object of making the necessary provision for the working of the panchayat in the case of a vacancy occurring among

the members of the panchayat. Such a provision existed in the Municipal and Local Boards Acts and it was necessary also in the case of village panchayats.

(2) Act No. II of 1924 (An Act to amend the Bombay Public Conveyances Act, 1920) gave to the police an enhanced measure of control over slow moving vehicles which are a real source of danger in traffic, and required drivers of public horse drawn conveyances to go through a driving and traffic test similar to that already imposed upon drivers of motor vehicles.

(3) Act No. III of 1924 [An Act further to amend the Bombay Rent (War Restrictions) Act, 1918, and the Bombay Rent (War Restrictions No. 2) Act, 1918] extended the period of the operation of the Acts, as amended by the Bombay Rent (War Restrictions) Amendment Act, 1923, as regards dwelling-houses in the municipal district and cantonment of Karachi up to the 31st December 1925, and amended the provisions of the said Acts in regard to subletting with a view to prevent subletting of premises without the written permission of the landlord by monthly tenants or tenants the term of whose lease had not been fixed.

(4) Act No. IV of 1924 (An Act further to amend the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901) removed the sex disqualification of women, conferred on the Collector the power of calling a meeting for the election of a president or vice-president, or when the president and the vice-president are unable or fail to call a meeting. Amongst other clauses, in lieu of the power to supersede, which was the only course open to Government in dealing with defaulting or refractory municipalities, it provided an alternative remedy in the shape of dissolution in order to give the electors a further opportunity to send their representatives to the local bodies.

(5) Act No. V of 1924 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Port Trust Act, 1879) *inter alia* amended section 24 of the Act and brought under its operation the four new appointments of Railway Manager, Docks Manager, Manager, Land and Bunders Department, and Controller of Stores.

(6) Act No. VI of 1924 (An Act further to amend the Karachi Port Trust Act, 1886) was passed with the object of securing adequate representation of Indian commercial interests on the Board of Trustees for the port of Karachi.

(7) Act No. VII of 1924 (An Act further to amend the Prince of Wales Museum Act, 1909) conferred on the Board of Trustees of the Museum the power to establish a provident fund for the benefit of its officers and servants.

(8) Act No. VIII of 1924 was passed with the object of settling the endowment of the Baronetcy conferred on the late Sir Chinubhai Madhavlal Ranchhodlal.

(9) Act No. IX of 1924 (An Act further to amend the Cattle-trespass Act, 1871) removed the anomaly which existed in the Cattle-trespass Act

of 1871 consequential upon the passing of the Village Panchayats Act. Owing to the transfer in 1921 of the functions of the district magistrate under sections 5, 6, 12, 14 and 17 of the Act to village panchayats, village pounds were controlled and pound-keepers were appointed by the village panchayats. Under section 6 of the Cattle-trespass Act of 1871, police patels, who were usually the heads of the panchayats, were *ex-officio* the keepers of village pounds, and the result was that the village patel, who in most cases was the sarpanch of the panchayat was his own servant and controlled himself. This amending Act was passed with the object of remedying the anomaly.

(10) Act No. X of 1924 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Smoke-nuisances Act, 1912) empowered the Inspectors of smoke-nuisances at Karachi and Ahmedabad to make complaints under the Act when authorised to do so by the Smoke-nuisances Commissioner, or by the sub-committees at Karachi and Ahmedabad without the written authority of the Chief Inspector of Smoke-nuisances.

(11) Act No. XI of 1924 (An Act further to amend the Bombay Public Conveyances Act, 1920) brought the present practice into legal conformity with the Act. The Act was administered by the police and the balance of the fees recovered under the Act had to be paid to the local authorities. The Act referred to " the local authorities administering the Act ". The Act was, however, administered by the police and not by any local authority. It was made plain by the amending Act that the balance of the fees had to be paid to the local authorities of each area.

(12) Act No. XII of 1924 determined the salary of the elected President of the Bombay Legislative Council which, in accordance with section 72C (5) of the Government of India Act, is required to be done by an Act of the local legislature.

(13) Act No. XIII of 1924 (The Bombay Children's Act) made further provision for the custody and protection of children under the age of 14 and young persons who are 14 years of age and upwards but under the age of 16, and for the custody, trial and punishment of youthful offenders under the age of 16. In Part II of this Act provision is made for the moral improvement of children and young persons who have no one to look after them or are neglected by their parents and guardians or are living in immoral surroundings. Such children may be sent by the court to an industrial school or may be committed to the care of a relative or other fit person. Young persons may be dealt with in the latter way only. Certain sections incorporated in Part III provide punishment for acts which scarcely came within the scope of the Indian Penal Code but which it is highly desirable to check for the welfare of children and young persons who have no remedy against their oppressors. Punishments are provided for general ill-treatment of children and young persons, for causing them to beg, for allowing them to frequent brothels and for causing or encouraging

their seduction. As the law stood before the passing of this Act, youthful offenders, namely persons convicted of offences punishable with transportation or imprisonment, who were under 16 years of age, were hanged, transported, imprisoned, if of the male sex, and under 15 years of age, sent to a reformatory school, and if convicted of certain minor offences bound over under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. This Act provides in Part IV that no youthful offender shall be punished in the first two ways, nor shall he be committed to prison unless the court certifies that he is of so unruly or depraved a character that he is not a fit person to be sent to a reformatory school. The Reformatory Schools Act, 1897, is also amended by this Act to empower the court to send a person under 16 years of age to a reformatory school. The age limit was formerly 15. Parts V and VI provide for the establishment of industrial schools by Government or under Government supervision in which children and youthful offenders of both sexes will be taught a useful trade until they attain the age of 16. The Act is in this respect supplementary to the Reformatory Schools Act, 1897. It is also supplementary to the Code of Criminal Procedure, for by it the court is empowered to commit a youthful offender convicted of any crime to the care of his parent, relative, guardian or other fit person, or to discharge him after due admonition. Provision is made in Part VII for the establishment of Juvenile Courts to obviate the association of children and young persons with adult criminals, and in Part VIII for the framing of rules under this Act.

(14) Act No. XIV of 1924 (An Act further to amend the City of Bombay Improvement Act, 1898) was passed with the object of enabling the Bombay Municipal Corporation to elect their representatives on the Board of Trustees by ballot voting instead of open voting as was provided by the City of Bombay Improvement Act, 1898.

Bills.—Of the sixteen Government Bills introduced in the Legislative Council during the period under report eight were passed into law. The remaining Bills reached various stages as follows. Four were read for the first time and referred to select committees, one was adjourned to the next session of the Council, while two were withdrawn by Government and one rejected.

There were also three private Bills. Mr. H. M. Rahimtoola's Bill to amend the Bombay Improvement Act, 1898, was passed and received the assent of His Excellency the Governor General. Mr. A. N. Surve's Bill to amend the Bombay District Police Act, 1890, was read for the first time and referred to a select committee, but subsequently on the motion of Mr. Surve the second reading was adjourned till the next session, while the consideration of the first reading of Mr. L. B. Bhopatkar's Bill to alter the constitution and to widen the powers of municipalities was postponed till the next session.

In addition to the above Bills, notices of fourteen private Bills were received from the Honourable Members. Of these leave to introduce seven bills was granted but further stages were not gone through. Motions for leave to introduce three bills were negatived, in two bills the motions were withdrawn, while in the case of the other two bills they were not moved.

Budget.—The Budget was presented to the Council on the 20th February 1925 and twelve days were allotted for the discussion of demands for grants. A total cut of Rs. 41,01,880 inclusive of all specific items disallowed by the Legislative Council, was made in the budget as originally presented to the Council. There were 11 divisions of which 2 were carried against the Government.

Standing Orders.—The Legislative Council passed two important Standing Orders, one of which made provision for the election of the President and the Deputy President and the other reduced the question time to half an hour during the voting of demands of the annual Budget.

Resolutions.—Twenty resolutions were moved during the period under report. Of these 13 were carried; 2 negatived and 5 were withdrawn. The resolutions which were carried recommended to Government—

(1) " That no revision of settlement in Sind be undertaken or enforced before the expiry of 20 years from the date of the last revision."

(2) " To issue orders directing district officers to allow the representatives of the district in the several legislatures to see or obtain certified copies of the district administration reports excepting the confidential parts of such reports with the previous sanction of the Government."

(3) " That the unexpired portion of the sentence of two years' rigorous imprisonment and payment of a fine of five hundred rupees passed on Mr. Raghunath Ramchandra Divakar of Dharwar on the 12th November 1923, under sections 124-A and 153-A, Indian Penal Code, for having printed in Kanarese a booklet called ' Deshi Dumdumi ' be remitted and the said Mr. Divakar be released subject to such reasonable conditions as Government may be pleased to impose upon him."

(4) " The necessity of urging upon the Government of India the advisability of introducing legislation at an early date for the provision of adequate maternity benefits to women workers in all organised industries in India and to prohibit the employment of women during the period of such benefit."

(5) " To appoint a committee to visit important forest areas and to enquire into the grievances of the ryots with regard to forest matters and to submit suggestions for the consideration of Government."

(6) " That tagai loans for the sinking of wells be advanced to cultivators free of interest and that the amount should be recovered in convenient instalments, being not less than fifteen, regard being had to the nature

of the crops raised and the extent to which the working of the wells is successful."

(7) " That the total prohibition of alcoholic drink and the total abolition of all traffic in alcoholic drink within the next twenty years be immediately declared to be the goal of the excise policy of the Government of this Presidency and that this policy should be speedily carried out by—

(*a*) adopting the system of rationing liquor,

(*b*) adopting the system of gradual reduction of shops,

(*c*) appointing and empowering elected local advisory committees,

(*d*) adopting all other proper and necessary means, and

(*e*) introducing legislation wherever necessary."

(8) " That tagai loans be advanced free of interest to those persons whose houses or lands or cattle have been damaged by the recent floods in the river Sharavati in the Honavar taluka of the Kanara district for the following purposes and that the amount of the said loans be recovered in convenient instalments not less than five, regard being had to the nature of the purpose for which the loans are advanced :—

(1) reclaiming or improving lands damaged by the floods ;

(2) building new houses to replace old ones which have been demolished or repairing houses which have been damaged by the floods ;

(3) purchasing seed or bullocks for agricultural purposes ;

(4) repairing such dams damaged by the floods as belong to the village communities and not to Government."

(9) " That steps be taken to readjust the territorial jurisdictions of the subordinate judges' courts in the presidency so as to remove the inconvenience to litigants wherever possible."

(10) (*a*) " That a committee consisting of 12 non-official and elected members be appointed to inquire into the whole administration and working of the Development Directorate, to suggest ways and means of effecting retrenchments and to report on the advisability or otherwise of continuing the schemes taken in hand ;

(*b*) that the Development Directorate be requested to co-operate with the said committee and afford all facilities and help in conducting the said inquiry and in making the said report ;

(*c*) that an independent officer or expert be appointed to help the said committee."

(11) " To enquire into the grievances of agriculturists and labourers in the presidency regarding forced labour being exacted by touring officers and other Government servants and to suggest measures for the prevention of such practice."

(12) " That all ancient mosques and mausoleums in the Ahmednagar city and district which are being utilised by Government or by non-Mahomedan bodies by permission of Government for secular purposes be vacated and handed over to the Mahomedan community on condition that

they are to be used for the religious purposes for which they were originally erected by their founders and donors."

(13) "To increase the scale of salaries of all peons in all Government establishments in the City of Bombay to Rs. 25 rising to Rs. 50 excluding the house allowance."

Of the above resolutions, Nos. (1), (2), (4), (5), (9) and (12) were accepted by Government, and Nos. (3), (6), (7), (8), (10), (11) and (13) were carried against the Government.

Two motions were moved by Government members. One which related to the grant of certain powers of re-appropriation of funds to the Finance Committee, was ruled out of order by the President, while the other relating to notification under the Cotton Transport Act was passed by the Council in an amended form.

In addition to the above, the Council passed one condolence motion in respect of the death of the Right Honourable Mr. Edwin Samuel Montague, and a resolution in appreciation of the services of Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

Motions for adjournment of the House.—There were three motions for adjournment of the House to discuss definite matters of urgent public importance. Of these one was negatived and two were passed by the Council.

The term of office of the Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., as nominated President of the Council being over, he was unanimously elected as the first elected President of the Bombay Legislative Council and took his seat on the 20th February 1925.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The High Court, consisting of a Chief Justice and nine Puisne Judges, has both ordinary and extraordinary civil and criminal jurisdiction and exercises original and appellate functions. The appellate Judges of the High Court also supervise the administration of justice by Subordinate Civil and Criminal Courts. Ordinary original jurisdiction is exercised in matters both civil and criminal, which arise within the limits of the Town and Island of Bombay, but the High Court may in Civil cases remove and itself try any suit brought in any Court under its superintendence, and, in criminal cases, exercise jurisdiction over all persons residing in any place whose Courts are subject to the superintendence of the High Court.

In the Mofussil, the administration of civil justice is, in addition to the High Court, and the Court of the Judicial Commissioner in Sind, entrusted to four grades of Courts, those of District and Assistant Judges and of two classes of officers styled, respectively, First and Second Class Subordinate Judges. There are at present eighteen District Judges, four Joint Judges and ten Assistant Judges, though the number of Assistant Judges

is frequently less than ten as the number required to act for District Judges on leave varies considerably. All these officers are members of the Indian Civil Service except three District Judges and seven Assistant Judges who belong to the Bombay Civil Service.

There are twenty-two First Class and one hundred and ten Second Class Subordinate Judges in the Presidency proper. In the province of Sind there are four First Class and fourteen Second Class Subordinate Judges.

The jurisdiction of a Subordinate Judge of the Second Class extends to all orginal suits and civil proceedings wherein the subject matter does not exceed five thousand rupees in value. He has no appellate powers.

The jurisdiction of a Subordinate Judge of the First Class extends to all original civil suits, except suits in which Government or any officer of Government in his official capacity is a party. An officer of this class may be (and some of them are) invested with appellate jurisdiction. A Suborinate Judge of the First Class may be invested with summary powers o. a Small Causes Court Judge for the trial of suits not exceeding Rs. 1,000 in value and a Subordinate Judge of the Second Class with similar powers in suits up to Rs. 200. The High Court may invest any Subordinate Judge with the powers of a District Judge or District Court, to try certain cases.

An Assistant Judge may try such original suits of less than Rs. 10,000 in amount or value as the District Judge refers to him for decision.

The officer who presides over the principal Court of Original Civil Jurisdiction in each district is called the District Judge. He exercises a general control over all courts within his charge and refers for decision to the Assistant Judge such suits as he deems proper. He has also to arrange for the guardianship of the minors and lunatics, and the management of their property. The Judges of Surat and Poona are Judges of the Parsee Matrimonial Courts in those towns and the Judge of Poona as Agent for the Sardars in the Deccan, decides, under a Regulation of 1827, cases in which certain gentlemen of high rank are interested.

In cases which do not exceed Rs. 5,000 in amount or value an appeal lies, on both matter of fact and of law, from the decree of an Assistant or Subordinate Judge to the Court of the District Judge, and from the latter's decision a second appeal lies to the High Court on points of law. An appeal from the decision of an Assistant or Subordinate Judge in cases exceeding Rs. 5,000 in value, and from the decision of the District Judge in all original suits, lies to the High Court. From the decision of the High Court a further appeal may be made to His Majesty in Council when the property in dispute is of the amount or value of Rs. 10,000 or upwards, but appeals are also allowed in cases of special importance or involving grave questions of law.

The Small Causes Court.—For the more easy recovery of small debts and demands, Courts invested with summary powers have been established in the City of Bombay and in Ahmedabad, Nadiad, Poona, and Karachi. The Judges of the mofussil Small Causes Courts have jurisdiction in money suits within the towns where the Courts are situated up to Rs. 500 in value and their decisions are final, save in so far as they are subject to reference on points of law to the High Court or to the supervision of the High Court in its extraordinary jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of these Courts may be extended to Rs. 1,000 and they can also be invested with appellate jurisdiction. The Presidency Small Causes Court has cognisance in suits not exceeding Rs. 2,000 in value arising within the Island of Bombay.

Criminal Courts.—District and Assistant Judges under the title of Sessions Judges and Assistant Sessions Judges exercise criminal jurisdiction. But the executive district officers who in addition to their revenue duties, are invested with magisterial powers, dispose of orginal criminal work to a great extent. There are under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, in addition to the High Court, four grades of Criminal Courts—those of the Magistrates of the Third, Second and First Class respectively and the Courts of Sessions. The different classes of Magistrates are invested with the following powers :—

Magistrates of the Third Class with power to inflict imprisonment not exceeding one month and fine not exceeding fifty rupees ;

Magistrates of the Second Class with power to inflict imprisonment not exceeding six months and fine not exceeding two hundred rupees ;

Magistrates of the First Class with power to inflict imprisonment not exceeding two years and fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

Magistrates of the First Class may also pass sentences of whipping.

In addition to the Stipendiary Magistrates there are several Honorary and Special Magistrates and Benches of Honorary Magistrates in the mofussil and Benches of Honorary Presidency Magistrates at the Presidency town to relieve the Stipendiary Magistrates.

Under the general title of Courts of Sessions three grades of officers are included, the Sessions Judge, who is the District Judge, the Additional Sessions Judge, who is the Assistant Judge with full powers and the Assistant Sessions Judge who is the Assistant Judge.

The Sessions Judge is empowered to try any offence, and to pass upon any offender any sentence authorised by law, subject, in the case of a capital sentence, to confirmation by the High Court.

An appeal against sentences of transportation for any term, or imprisonment for more than four years passed by an Assistant Sessions Judge lies to the High Court. Against all other sentences an appeal lies to the Court of Sessions, while in no case can the sentence of an Assistant Sessions Judge exceed imprisonment or transportation for seven years.

CIVIL JUSTICE

Bombay Presidency (Proper).—The Bombay Judiciary exercises jurisdiction over an area of 77,275 square miles with a population of 15,859,502. The Civil Judiciary consists of 10 High Court Judges, 15 District Judges, 12 Joint and Assistant Judges, a Chief Judge and 7 Judges of the Small Cause Courts and 133 Sub-Judges.

Over 313,000 cases of all kinds were tried in the Courts of the Presidency proper during 1924.

The number of suits instituted in the year was over 151,000, the Bombay Small Cause Courts alone having nearly 33,900. The aggregate value of the suits amounted to Rs. 517 lakhs, while the value of suits in the Bombay Small Cause Courts was a little over Rs. 100 lakhs. Suits below Rs. 500 numbered 85·6 per cent., those between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000, 6·9 per cent., between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 5,000, 4·8 per cent. and above Rs. 5,000, ·6 per cent. Suits whose value cannot be estimated in money were 2·03 per cent. The largest number of suits was instituted in Ahmedabad (20,220), where the number of money suits (17,484) was the heaviest in the Presidency. No other district except Khandesh and Poona exceeded 10,000.

The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 53,000; of these 5,028 had been pending for more than one year, showing a decrease of 1,142 on the figures of the previous year. Belgaum was responsible for the largest number of such cases (624) followed by Ahmedabad (615) and Poona (613).

In the High Court 6,014 suits were instituted and 7,238 were disposed of during the year, leaving a balance of 6,912.

In the mofussil, Khandesh still continues to be the most litigious district, having 29,316 original suits, 1,440 appeals and 24,592 execution proceedings, followed by Ahmedabad with 27,803 original suits, 1,103 appeals and 14,319 execution proceedings, Poona with 17,423 original suits, 744 appeals and 12,006 execution proceedings and Nasik with 11,867 original suits, 577 appeals and 9,452 execution proceedings. Bombay City had 40,598 original suits and 14,721 execution proceedings.

The total receipts of all the courts (civil and criminal) fell from Rs. 93·80 lakhs to Rs. 86·16 lakhs, owing to the rates of court fees having been reduced outside Bombay City, while the expenditure rose slightly from Rs. 45·68 lakhs to Rs. 45·98 lakhs.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Criminal Courts in the Presidency are administered by the High Court and Sessions Judges mentioned above together with 974 Magistrates and 19,708 Police Patels, the latter exercising a very limited jurisdiction.

Over 206,000 criminal offences came before the courts during the year, showing an increase of 22,166. Of these 47,816 were under the Indian Penal Code and 158,266 under the Special and Local Laws. More than 19,600 offences were reported under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 72,700 under the Bombay City and District Police Acts, and 35,000 under the Bombay City and District Municipal Acts.

Stipendiary Magistrates dealt with over 91,000 offences and Honorary and Bench Magistrates, with over 110,000.

Out of 259,000 persons under trial during the year, 79,700 were acquitted or discharged and 169,000 convicted. Of those convicted, 16,392 were sentenced to imprisonment, 140,269 to fine or forfeiture, 680 to whipping and 4,119 to give security for good behaviour. Of those sentenced to imprisonment, 5,811 received below 15 days, 8,339 below six months, 1,788 below two years and 454 above two years.

Two hundred and sixty complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons for frivolous or vexatious complaints. The total amount of fines realised amounted to Rs. 13·90 lakhs.

Two hundred and sixteen murder cases were tried during the year, showing an increase of 27 over the previous year. They may be classified as follows :—

From motives connected with women 58 ; of children for the sake of ornaments 5 ; for the sake of gain 30 ; arising out of other causes 123.

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Sind.—The Report of the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice for Sind for the year 1924 shows that there was a decrease in the number of criminal cases brought to trial from 32,978 to 32,373, the number of persons involved being 52,229, a decrease of 49. 52,484 people were tried and 19,683 were convicted, an increase of 1,407 over the previous year. Thirty-seven persons were sentenced to death, 46 to transportation, 3,674 to imprisonment, 15,459 to fine, 124 to whipping and 709 were ordered to furnish security. The total amount of fines realised during 1924 amounted to Rs. 1·87 lakhs as against Rs. 2·12 lakhs in the preceding year.

The number of offences affecting life and attempts at such offences rose from 275 to 303 in the year under report. The greater part of this class of crime, especially in Karachi, Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Larkana, Sukkur and Upper Sind Frontier, arose from intrigues or supposed intrigues with women.

The total number of civil suits instituted in Sind during 1924 was 28,144 as compared with 28,452 in 1923, the amount involved being about Rs. 122 lakhs. At the close of the year 8,644 were still to be heard.

The total receipts from all courts amounted to about Rs. 10·66 lakhs and the total charges to Rs. 13·60 lakhs showing a deficit of about Rs. 2·94 lakhs.

REGISTRATION

The noteworthy feature of the year was that the continued decline in the number of registrations, which was apparent from 1920 to 1923, was arrested and the number of registrations amounted to 311,705 against 289,766 during 1923, an increase of 7·5 per cent., an indication that the reaction following the heavy speculative investment in properties is exhausted and normal conditions promise to become re-established. In most of the districts both the number of transactions and the value of immovable properties affected by them have increased. However, in the districts of Bombay, Bombay Suburban and Kolaba and in the sub-district of Karachi though the number of transactions has increased the value of properties affected by them shows a large decline. No doubt the inflation of values reached its highest point in these areas, and the reaction is now severe. The value of immovable properties affected by documents in Bombay has declined by 25·58 per cent. As a result of this the total value of immovable property affected in the Presidency declined by 10·68 per cent. in spite of the rise in the number of registrations. This increase was shared by all the districts in the Presidency except Broach and Thana and the four Sind districts of Karachi, Sukkur, Larkana and Nawabshah and was most conspicuous in the districts of Bombay, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Bijapur and Dharwar. In Kaira and Sholapur the increase was ascribed to good rain and consequent good harvest. In Ahmednagar and Bijapur the increase was attributed to the poor season. This contradiction can be explained by the more general formula that increased activity of either buyers or sellers increases the volume of transactions; so this increase is manifested both after good and after bad seasons. In Bombay the increase is attributed partly to sales by speculative purchasers who, having no hopes for an improvement in the market, were obliged to sell for any price and partly to an increase in the number of leases affected by owners to secure higher rents—" a curious commentary on the Rent Act," remarks the Inspector General.

The decrease in Broach was attributed to scarcity of rain in Jambusar taluka and in the four Sind districts to the tightness of the money market throughout the year. The decrease in Thana was insignificant.

Documents relating to immovable property, which constitute 97·8 per cent. of the total number of registrations amounted to 304,867 as against 283,499 during the preceding year, showing an increase of 21,368 or 7·5 per cent.

Compulsory registrations increased from 275,811 to 296,952 or by 7·6 per cent.

Though the number of registrations increased by 7·5 per cent. the fee receipts increased only slightly from Rs. 12,77,000 to Rs. 12,93,000, *i.e.*, by 1·27 per cent. This is due to the fact that the value of property in

Bombay and its suburbs and in Karachi has dropped very considerably as compared with the speculative prices of 1919 and 1920. The depression in trade and stringency of the money market are other factors, and while the Bombay Sub-registry Office shows a fall of Rs. 61,159 in gross income, the number of registrations of the office has increased from 5,187 to 6,369 or by 22·7 per cent.

The total expenditure dropped from Rs. 6,32,000 in 1923 to Rs. 6,18,000 or by about 2 per cent.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

There was a slight increase in the registration of new companies during the year; "but," as the Registrar remarks in his annual report, "so long as the depression in trade continues the increase is likely to be small. The increase in cotton mills is worth noting in spite of the present crisis through which the trade is passing." Seventy-two new Companies were registered during the year under report as compared with 55 in the preceding year and of these 66 were limited by shares and 6 limited by guarantee having no share capital. Out of the 66 share capital Companies, 32 were public and 34 private. The public Companies had a nominal capital of over Rs. 192 lakhs while the private ones had Rs. 681 lakhs as against Rs. 729 lakhs and nearly Rs. 121 lakhs respectively last year. It is noticeable that though there has been a decrease in the capital of Public Companies there has been an appreciable increase in the capital of Private Companies.

The total number of Companies working at the close of the year was 854 of which 599 were public, 228 private share capital Companies and the remaining 27 were Companies limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital. During the year 22 Companies incorporated outside British India, established their places of business in this Presidency as compared with 24 in the preceding year. The aggregate capital—authorised, subscribed and paid up—of all Companies at the end of the year was Rs. 232 crores, Rs. 140½ crores and Rs. 103 crores respectively.

The number of societies registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, was 32 as against 19 in the preceding year.

Two Companies and their managers were prosecuted for infringing the provisions of sections 103 and 136 of the Act, but neither of the cases was decided during the year. Many defaults under section 32 of the Act by private Companies were noticed but the Companies were cautioned and their returns accepted late without prosecution.

The revenue on account of fees realised under the various Acts amounted to Rs. 33,800 and the expenditure to Rs. 35,000.

CHAPTER IV

POLICE AND CRIME

THE Police force consists of two distinct bodies, the stipendiary and the village police. The stipendiary force is divided into grades, the members of which beginning as Constables on a monthly pay of Rs. 19 in Southern Division, Rs. 20 in Northern and Central Divisions and Rs. 21 in Sind have the opportunity of becoming Head Constables, Sub-Inspectors, Inspectors and even Deputy Superintendents. In the mofussil—

the Sub-Inspector has charge of the Police Station,

the Inspector has charge of a Circle comprising several Police Stations or a large Town, and

an Assistant Superintendent of Police or a Deputy Superintendent has charge of a Sub-Division of a District.

The pay of a Sub-Inspector ranges from Rs. 75 to Rs. 160 and that of an Inspector from Rs. 180 to Rs. 300 per mensem. The whole staff of the Police Prosecuting Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors is now designated as " Police Prosecutors " and their pay ranges from Rs. 90 to Rs. 400 per mensem. The pay of a Deputy Superintendent of Police ranges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 800 per mensem.

It is not the purpose of Government to give the stipendiary police a regular military character, and a portion only are armed, and to them are allotted the duties of guarding jails and lock-ups and the escort of prisoners and treasure. The knowledge of drill required from them is not very elaborate. The more purely police functions are discharged equally by members of the armed and of the unarmed branches of the force.

The proportion of police to area and population of the different portions of the Presidency varies greatly, being determined by a consideration of the nature of the country, the density and character of the population, and the neighbourhood of Indian States.

In the Northern Range there is one policeman to every 3·89 square miles and to 749 inhabitants.

In the Southern Range 1 to 5·37 square miles and to 1,035 inhabitants.

In Sind 1 to 9·50 square miles and to 622 inhabitants. Of the total police force, excluding officers, 1,090 were mounted.

For the purpose of control in the Presidency proper the whole force is under the Inspector General of Police, who is assisted by three Deputy Inspectors-General of Police. Certain administrative powers have, however, been reserved to the Commissioners of Divisions.

The executive management of the police in each district is vested, under the general direction of the Magistrate of the District, in a Superindendent of Police, who is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent, and has in some cases one or more Assistant Superintendents under him.

Recruitment for the Indian (Imperial) Police Service, which was originally wholly made in England, is now made both in England and in India on the results of the competitive examinations held in both the countries. A certain percentage of appointments is also made by promotion from the Provincial Police Service. Probationary Assistant Superintendents of Police and Deputy Superintendents (direct nominees) are, on appointment, attached to the Central Police Training School, Nasik. Their course of training ordinarily extends from 18 months to two years. After completion of their training, during which they pass tests in law, languages, drill and equitation, these officers are posted to districts for active duty as Assistant and Deputy Superintendents under the District Superintendents.

The taluka which is the sub-division of a district for revenue purposes is usually divided into two or more Police Stations and the Sub-Inspector in charge of a Police Station is quite independent of the Mamlatdar in his executive control of the police under him and answerable only to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent of Police. Under a Police Station there are one or more outposts according to the size, criminality and local conditions of the area forming the Station. These outposts are manned from the regular police force allotted to the Police Station under which they are situated. Outposts are in charge of head constables and head constables and constables have a number of villages assigned to them for patrol purposes.

Railway Police.—A special police organization exists in connection with the railways of this Presidency—the North-Western which traverses Sind, the B. B. & C. I., the G. I. P. and the M. & S. M. Railways. The police employed along these lines of rail are under the supervision of three Superintendents. The Railway Police form a distinct body quite independent of the Police of the districts in which they serve, but their pay and prospects are identical with those of the District Police. Since the year 1919 the cost of the " Crime and Order Police " is wholly debited to the Provincial Revenues and that of the " Watch and Ward Staff " is borne by Railway Administrations.

Criminal Investigation Department.— In addition to the police attached to individual districts there exists a special organization for the detection of crime called the Criminal Investigation Department, which includes the Finger Print Bureau and is under the immediate control of a Deputy Inspector General of Police. The Criminal Investigation Department, in co-operation with the Police of other provinces, is employed in the

prevention of the spread of serious crime, in the investigation into crime having ramifications over several jurisdictions and in the pursuit of criminals. The Finger Print Bureau has been working satisfactorily since its establishment in 1901.

MOFUSSIL AND SIND POLICE

" The year under report was, on the whole, one of comparative quiet and, in the Presidency proper, of progressive improvement," says the Inspector General of Police in his report for 1924. " Conditions in Sind, however, are not satisfactory, and the Sind Police Force requires strengthening as soon as possible. Political tension was considerably less, and the Police were thus able to spend most of their time and energy on their more legitimate duties. The remaining few dacoits in Gujerat and in the Nasik, Satara and Bijapur districts, have been successfully rounded up, thus completing the admirable work of the Police in this respect last year. The dangerous gangs, responsible for the two very serious dacoities in the Poona District and the dacoities in the Bombay Suburban District, have been laid by the heels and the majority of the offenders sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

The Police of the Presidency fully maintained their high standard of loyalty and efficiency, and can look back with pride on a year's work really well done."

The Commissioner, Central Division (Mr. Mountford), writes in this connection :—

" The year was normal and the Police maintained their high standard of efficiency and kept in check the criminal classes, despite the closing down of some of the Police Stations and Outposts. They are, however, seriously handicapped by the heavy reductions. There is always a temptation in retrenchment of expenditure to grudge the cost of the watch-dog on the ground that the house has not been burgled and to confuse cause and effect. If in spite of this the success in dealing with big crimes has been marked it can only mean that the machine is working at very high pressure ;"

and again

" The Police administration has been remarkably efficient and the results are all the more satisfactory in a country where the public gives so little assistance and even less recognition to the Police. In England everyone from the Newspaper Editor downwards assists the police : here it is otherwise. I consider that Magistrates are chiefly to blame as, if witnesses were treated better, they would be more ready to come forward."

The total number of cognizable and non-cognizable offences reported during the year was 137,566 as against 130,254 in 1923—an increase of

7,312 under all classes. Taking the Indian Penal Code and Class VI* cases separately—both cognizable and non-cognizable—there was an increase of 941 cases under the former and 6,371 under the latter, as compared with the figures of the previous year.

The non-cognizable crime stood at 88,291 as against 81,873 in 1923, an increase of 6,418. The figures of total crime have been steadily on the increase since 1921, and from an examination of the figures it appears that non-cognizable crime is alone responsible for the heavy rise. In 1921 this stood at 63,507, whereas during 1924 it rose to 88,291—an increase of 24,784 cases—whilst the total cognizable crime dealt with dropped from 51,498 in 1921 to 49,275 cases during the year under report—a decrease of 2,223.

Cognizable crime, reported to the Police under the Indian Penal Code (Classes I to V), dropped from 32,566 in 1923 to 32,226.

The reported cognizable crime (Classes I to VI) numbered 40,089 against 39,500 in the previous year, showing a rise of 589. This increase is due mainly to the increased number of offences under "Special and Local Laws," "The Criminal Tribes Act" and "Public nuisances".

Districts which show a marked increase in reported crime under the Indian Penal Code are Upper Sind Frontier (196), Ahmedabad (191), Larkana (144), Sukkur (139) and Thana (106). In the Ahmedabad district the increase is attributed to the reduction in the Police Force as the result of the Retrenchment Scheme, the after-effects of the general wave of depression in all industrial centres which threw out of employment a large number of criminally inclined people, and the change recently made in the Criminal Procedure Code according to which all offences under section 420, Indian Penal Code, have now been made compoundable. In Thana the rise is reported to be due to the premature release of prisoners from jails on the recommendations of the Advisory Board and to reductions in the Police Force in the Retrenchment Scheme.

In 1923 there was a fall of 1,765 cases of reported serious crimes as compared with the figures of 1922. But last year there was a further fall under all heads, showing a decrease of 555 cases. Murders and attempts to murder dropped from 817 to 739, Dacoities from 286 to 285, Robberies from 878 to 745, House-breaking from 8,507 to 8,345, Thefts including cattle thefts from 13,281 to 13,194, and Receiving stolen property from

* *Class I.*—Offences against the State, Tranquillity, Safety and Justice such as those relating to Army and Navy, Coin, Stamps, Currency Notes, etc.

Class II.—Connotes serious offences against the person, *i.e.*, murder, culpable homicide, rape, unnatural offence, kidnapping, hurt, grievous hurt, etc.

Class III.—Serious offences against person and property or against property only, *i.e.*, dacoity, robbery, mischief, house-breaking, house-trespass, etc.

Class IV.—Minor offences against the person such as wrongful restraint, and confinement, rash act, compulsory labour.

Class V.—Minor offences against property, including theft, criminal breach of trust, cheating, receiving stolen property.

Class VI.—Offences under Special and Local Laws, against religion, etc.

919 to 825. The Presidency proper records considerable decreases in robberies and Kaira and Ahmedabad were chiefly responsible for this improvement. The rounding up of dacoits and gangs and more extended use of Chapter VIII* of the Criminal Procedure Code and a stronger Police Force account for the improvement in Kaira. In Ahmednagar it was attributed to the arrest of a gang of Thakars and more efficient use of the Criminal Tribes Act. " Burglaries " showed a marked increase in Ahmedabad, Nasik and Thana. The increase in Ahmedabad was due to industrial depression and reduction of Police Force, while the increase in Nasik was attributed to the late rains in the Central portion of the district.

Turning to the incidence of crime for the year under report in the Presidency, inclusive of Sind, the incidence of total reported cognizable crime under the Indian Penal Code per thousand of the population was 1·77 as against 1·79 for 1923. The ratio of incidence between the Presidency and Sind continued to be very similar, *viz.*, 1·40 for the former and 3·61 for the latter in 1924 as against 1·40 and 3·59 in 1923. The total serious crime also stood at nearly the same proportion, *viz.*, 1·05 for the Presidency proper and 2·58 for Sind.

In the Presidency proper the Bombay Suburban District was again the most criminal (5·05) and Ratnagiri the least criminal (0·31). In Sind the corresponding districts were again Karachi Head-Quarters (9·61) and Thar and Parkar (1·86).

The Superintendent of Police, Bombay Suburban District, in connection with the high percentage of crime, remarks as follows :—

" The population of the district is not criminally inclined. The criminals come from Bombay, and until Railway Police are stationed at all stations in the Bombay Suburban District on both the G. I. P. and B. B. & C. I. lines with orders to carefully watch those leaving Bombay by the late local trains, and coming into Bombay by the early local trains, and the Bombay Suburban District Police are sufficiently numerous to guard the roads leading out of Bombay, the Bombay Suburban District will not lose its unenviable reputation of being the most criminal district in the Presidency."

A statement showing the incidence, per thousand of the population, of cognizable crime reported under the Indian Penal Code and of the principal classes of serious crime for 1924 is attached to the Report. The figures for 1923 from other Provinces indicate that there was a general fall in crime in India except in Burma and North-West Frontier Province. Burma (4·19) continued to be the most criminal Province and Madras (1·08) the least. Bombay maintained its position at 1·79.

* Demanding security for keeping the peace and for good behaviour.

The percentage of cases excluded as false or due to mistakes of law or fact, was 17·45 as against 17·60. Of these 1,405 cases were classed as maliciously false, as against 1,422 in the preceding year—a decrease of 17 cases.

It is gratifying to note that despite an increase in the number of reported cases and cases for disposal, *all classes*, there was a further drop of 482 in the number of undetected cases. The figures as compared with those of the preceding two years are as under :—

1922	..	13,701
1923	..	11,796
1924	..	11,314
Average	..	12,270

The figure for the year under report is the lowest since 1918. The decrease occurred entirely in Sind (504 cases), the figures for the two Ranges remaining practically unchanged.

Commenting on undetected cases, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range, observes :—

" The foremost and most urgent need is the establishment of a central agency for collecting data to deal with burglaries on the *modus operandi* system. Local efforts in this direction are not of much avail since the operations of the present-day criminal extend over several districts and even over Presidencies. The work should be undertaken by the Criminal Investigation Department who should be provided with a special staff for the purpose as early as possible."

" A further measure is the revival of village patrol and the restoration of the Police Stations with their former strength, reduced in the recent Retrenchment Schemes. The difficulties of the Police in preventing and detecting crime were always great. They have been further accentuated by these reductions and by the extension of the operations of criminals over much wider areas, to watch which the police have not an adequate staff at their disposal."

The Inspector General of Police agrees with the views expressed above. " The most pressing need of the Department, as observed in previous reports, is the expansion of the Presidency Criminal Investigation Department and the establishment of a Detective Training College. In the Sub-Divisional Scheme which is now being introduced (though unfortunately shorn of some essential appointments), the Sub-Divisional Inspector is to concentrate his attention and energies on crime ; and, if the services of these officers are utilised fully on this work only, it should result in considerable improvement within the Districts. The urgency for a central expert agency, however, *viz.*, the Presidency Criminal Investigation Department, to deal with the broader questions, is still more essential and some expansion of this Branch is urgently required.

" As regards a Detective Training College the question has been fully discussed more than once, and it is unnecessary to reiterate its importance and urgency. Without some training in modern methods of detection and deduction we cannot expect our Sub-Inspectors and the Force generally to compete with the more modern type of criminal who often operates over large fields."

The percentage of cases convicted to those tried was 86·23 as against 84·93 in the previous year under all classes, and 79·47 against 78·93 under the Indian Penal Code.

The largest percentage of convictions was obtained under thefts, including cattle thefts, and the lowest under dacoities, the percentages being 90·97 and 66·97 respectively.

The total number of persons arrested by the police was 37,446. Inclusive of those concerned in cases pending from the previous year, the total number of persons for disposal was 44,882 as compared with 42,248 in 1923. Persons released without being brought to trial numbered 842 and those actually tried numbered 35,902, of whom 22,322 were convicted, giving a percentage of 62·17 on the total tried as against 62·62 in the year 1923.

Out of 22,322 persons convicted, 3,503 were identified as having been previously convicted and 914 were classified as " habitual " offenders.

The value of property stolen during 1924 was Rs. 20,74,000, as compared with Rs. 21,88,000 in the previous year. The value of property recovered was Rs. 6,13,000 compared with Rs. 7,12,000 indicating a percentage of 35·67 against 36·80 in the previous year.

The total number of persons proceeded against under preventive measures dropped slightly from 4,208 to 4,201.

The sanctioned strength of the Police in the Presidency including Sind and the Railways but exclusive of the Dangs was 1,073 officers and 22,001 men against 1,059 officers and 21,871 men. The increase in the strength of both officers and men was due to various causes, *i.e.*, one Superintendent of Police's appointment in the superior cadre in Bombay City, additional appointments of Sub-Inspectors in the Finger Print Bureau and the creation of the Special Detective Staff on the Railways (Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables).

The total cost of the Police for the financial year 1924-25, inclusive of the clerical staff, amounted to Rs. 133·46 lakhs against Rs. 125·67 lakhs in 1923-24—a net increase of Rs. 7·78 lakhs. The increase was due to improvement in recruiting, revision of pay and allowances of certain officers, and increase in the strength of the Police in the Bombay Suburban District, etc.

The average cost per policeman increased from Rs. 526-3-6 to Rs. 555-12-7.

BOMBAY CITY POLICE

The Annual Report of the Bombay City Police showed that the year 1924 was a tranquil one. Besides the discovery and prevention of crime and preservation of order the duties of the police included the control of traffic, the working of the Arms Act, the Explosives and Petroleum and Poisons Acts. These duties have in the year under report perceptibly increased. There were besides many miscellaneous duties which entailed time and trouble such as aid to refugees and pilgrims, enquiries as to passports and naturalisation, censorship of plays and other performances and licensing of theatres.

The year was practically free from any serious unrest, except for the general mill strike which took place at the beginning of the year and lasted from 17th January to 18th March. " Considering the long duration of the strike, and the number of persons out of work," remarks the Commissioner of Police, " the strikers were on the whole remarkably peaceful and well behaved. For the first six or seven weeks no disturbance of the peace worth mentioning occurred. On the 7th March however the rowdy element among them took offence at a notice put up on the mills by the Millowners' Association that the mills would open the following day as certain workers were willing to resume work unconditionally and they paraded the streets in the DeLisle Road area in a threatening and defiant manner. At one point near Curry Road Bridge a police officer in charge of a picket was obliged to order fire as he found his party surrounded and attacked on all sides by a howling mob. Two were killed and three were wounded as a result of the firing; the crowd rapidly dispersed and that was the one and only incident of its kind. There were also a few cases of incendiarism." The strike while it lasted imposed a heavy strain on the police who discharged their duties with commendable loyalty and restraint.

There was, says the Report, the usual periodical panic about Pathans in May and June which subsided after large numbers of Pathans had been deported. " During the year I had meetings with the leaders of the Pathan community," says the Commissioner of Police, " and suggested to them that in the interests of the law abiding members of their community it would be wise for them to keep a strict check on new arrivals and give me information of the presence of bad characters in the city with a view to their deportation. They agreed to do so : it remains to be seen if any good will come of it."

The crime statistics show a considerable rise in cognizable and non-cognizable cases since 1922. The total crime in 1922 amounted to 112,163 cases. This rose in 1923 to 122,086 and in 1924 to 133,853. As in the year previous however the bulk of the increase was due to infractions of the Local Acts, and is attributed to the sustained activity of the police in

dealing with petty shopkeepers, hawkers and offenders against the Bombay Conveyance and Prevention of Gambling Acts. There was a slight diminution from 11,394 in 1923 to 11,190 in 1924 in the police cognizable cases under the Penal Code. There was a slight increase in the number of cases under " Rioting and unlawful assemblies," but no grave cases of rioting occurred during the year. In the number of cases of murder and attempts at murder there was a noticeable increase, due chiefly to an increase in the number of cases of infanticide. Details of the more noticeable cases of murder are mentioned in the report. In all these cases in spite of considerable personal danger the police showed commendable courage in pursuing and arresting armed criminals. The conduct of the two Parsi gentlemen, Mr. Dinshawji Keashaji and Mr. Cowasji Nowroji, in connection with the arrest of the notorious criminal Bhagwania Bhoja, was most praiseworthy.

Of the cases prosecuted 92·31 per cent. resulted in conviction as against 91·08 in 1923 ; the total number of cases undetected works out to only 5·00 per cent. as against 5·77 in 1923.

While under minor offences against property there was a slight fall, the number of serious offences against property, which was abnormally high in 1923, slightly increased. Most of these cases came under " Lurking house trespass, " which rose from 2,075 in 1923 to 2,169 in 1924.

The total value of property alleged to have been stolen in Police cognizable cases amounted to Rs. 19,47,000 as compared with Rs. 22,85,000 in 1923 and Rs. 22,79,000 in 1922. The value of the property recovered was Rs. 3,97,000 which gives a recovery percentage of 20·40 as compared with 20·85 in 1923 and 25·27 in 1922.

With regard to the preventive action taken by the Police, 15 persons were placed before the magistracy under the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code as against 28 in the previous year and 50 in 1922. Under the provisions of the Bombay City Police Act 336 persons were deported as members of gangs associated for the purpose of committing offences, while 108 such deportees returning to Bombay without permission and 160 persons wandering between sunset and sunrise for the purpose of committing offences were prosecuted under the provisions of the Bombay City Police Act.

With the registration of the Criminal Tribes resident in the City of Bombay which is now being completed, and the placing in Settlements of those who are habitual offenders a further diminution of crime in the City may be expected.

There has been a certain amount of public dissatisfaction expressed at the removal of many fixed posts and the substitution of patrols instead. It is impossible however with the number of men at the disposal of the Commissioner of Police to give both fixed posts and patrols for every point and area where they are required. And as patrol is undoubtedly a more

effective system of protection than fixed posts, more men are employed on patrol than on fixed posts. The most effective protection is a combination of fixed posts and patrols on short beats and an examination of the requirements is being made on these lines.

The registration of Motor Vehicles and the problems of traffic control continued to absorb increasing attention. During the year 2,153 cars, 273 cycles and 103 heavy motor vehicles were registered. For the better control of traffic a self-contained traffic control department has been constituted. It is believed that by the introduction of this scheme a great improvement in traffic control will be effected. Under it traffic duty policemen will receive special training. It is too early to assess the results of the scheme but there has been an appreciable decrease in the total number of motor accidents from 1,861 in 1923 to 1,641 in 1924 in spite of the fact that the total number of motor vechicles running in Bombay City had increased from 9,741 in 1923 to 11,203 in 1924.

With a view to co-ordinating the control over motor vehicles and land conveyances and improving the existing traffic conditions of the Bombay streets, Government have also sanctioned recently the amalgamation of the Motor Vehicle and the Public Land Conveyance Departments of the Bombay City Police.

The discipline of the force was satisfactory. There was a fall in the number and severity of punishments. Only 349 men and officers were punished as compared with 428 in the previous year. The number who resigned was 133 and discharged 139 as compared with 99 and 72 respectively in the previous year. The increased number of resignations and discharges are attributed to the enforcement of a higher standard of discipline rendered possible by the reduction in the number of vacancies.

There has been a steady improvement in the health of the force which is no doubt due to improved hospital provision and to the progress made during the last 5 years in the improvement of the housing of the force. The housing provisions will practically be completed with the Second Naigaum Police accommodation scheme.

There was a slight reduction in the strength of the City Police Force, mainly due to the withdrawal of police guards from Government buildings and the R. I. M. Dockyard and to a reduction in the mounted police. The economies so effected were utilised in the purchase of ten motor lorries for transporting foot police at times of disturbances or threatened riots and for patrolling at night the northern portion of the Island.

The total permanent strength of the force at the close of the year stood at 3,827 as against 4,024 at the close of the year 1923.

The population of the city according to the census of 1921 is 1,175,914 and the proportion of crime to population on these figures stands at 1 to 11·81 as compared with 1 to 13·04 in 1923 and 1 to 14·31 in 1922.

The proportion of crime to each police unit stands at 26·01 as compared with 22·41 in 1923 and 21·22 in 1922.

VILLAGE POLICE

Under the provisions of Bombay Act VIII of 1867 the village police are, subject to the control and direction of the Commissioner, administered by the different District Magistrates. It is their special duty to prevent crime and public nuisances and to detect and arrest offenders within village limits. They are not stipendiary, but receive perquisites from the inhabitants of the village or rent-free lands or small sums of money from Government. In each village the village police are under the charge of the police patil, who is often, but by no means always, the person performing the duties of revenue patil. His duties as police patil are to furnish the Magistrate of the district with any returns or information called for, and to keep him constantly informed as to the state of crime and all matters connected with the village police and the health and general condition of the community in his village. Under a form of administration which preserves the village as the unit of collection in revenue matters the institution of village police naturally holds an important place.

There are no village police in Sind, but in their place village or taluka trackers (paggis) are employed.

The village police rendered special assistance in 374 cases in 1924 against 540 in the previous year. In all 401 village policemen were rewarded, 54 by the grant of good service tickets, 40 by the grant of swords and the remainder by money rewards amounting to Rs. 2,862.

Complaints of inefficiency, unreliability and negligence against the village police continue to be made and the Inspector General of Police is of opinion that there is a very marked deterioration in the work of these village officers of recent years.

The system of serving summonses through the agency of the village police continued as a tentative measure both in the Belgaum and Dharwar districts during the year under report.

ADEN POLICE

The total number of officers and men of the Police was 320, of whom 12 were mounted. Only 90 were literate. The expenditure on the force was Rs. 2 lakhs, of which Rs. 1⅓ lakhs was borne by Government and the remainder by the Aden Settlement and the Port Trust. Out of 407 persons concerned in 515 offences and sent up for trial, 319 were convicted and 88 discharged. The percentage of convictions was 69·95 as compared with 74·86 in the preceding year. The value of property stolen during the year amounted to Rs. 29,975, of which property worth Rs. 6,419 was recovered. The conduct of the police in general was fair. Five were dismissed,

8 reduced, 2 fined and 47 were given extra drill. The strength of the Harbour Police was 54 men of all ranks. Seventy-six persons were deported to Somaliland and 274 to the interior of Arabia at the expense of the Settlement. Nineteen persons were deported to India, Jeddah, Mokalla, Abyssinia, Beirut and Hodeidah at Government expense.

GOVERNMENT MALE AND FEMALE WORKHOUSES

By the European Vagrancy Act of 1874 a person of European extraction (which does not include " those commonly known as Eurasians or East-Indians ") found asking for alms or wandering about without any employment or visible means of subsistence is a " vagrant " and may be required by a police officer to appear before a Magistrate. If the latter thinks that the vagrant is not likely to obtain employment he sends him to a Government Workhouse known as Working Men's Hostel where he is kept. If the Magistrate is of opinion that the vagrant is likely to get employment in any other place in India he may at his discretion forward the vagrant to such a place.

If after a lapse of a reasonable time in a workhouse, no suitable employment is obtainable for the vagrant, the local Government may cause him to be removed from British India at Government expense or may release him.

Penalties are provided by the Act for refusal to go before a Magistrate, for quitting the workhouse without leave, etc., two years' imprisonment being the maximum penalty for the latter offence.

The Government Male Workhouse which is now administered by the Salvation Army, which receives a grant from Government, deals with cases under this Act ; destitute Europeans may go voluntarily to the King Edward's Home which is managed by the Salvation Army and also receives a grant from Government.

The total number of inmates during the year 1924 was 110. The total expenditure fell from Rs. 9,960 to Rs. 8,702.

Seven vagrants deserted the Workhouse during the year under report ; of these 6 were prosecuted and convicted and one was still at large at the close of the year.

The health of the inmates was good and their general conduct satisfactory.

In the Female Workhouse no vagrants remained at the close of the year 1923 nor were any admitted during the year 1924.

Bombay Jails

The average daily population of the jails in the Bombay Presidency during 1924 was 12,466 and the number of convicted prisoners admitted during the year was 15,275, a slight decrease over the previous year. But the number of undertrial prisoners, 71,548, was an increase of over 5,000

compared with the previous year. The administration report of the Bombay Jail Department for 1924 recorded no events of outstanding importance but a number of changes were effected in the administration of the jails with the object of improving the condition of the prisoners in accordance with the recommendations of the Jail Committee's Report. These changes include :—

(*i*) The revision of the rules regulating the punishment of whipping in jails so as to ensure that they are inflicted only for conduct affecting seriously the discipline of a jail or for other offences of a grave nature after other punishments have failed. In all such cases reports are required to be submitted at once to the Inspector General of Prisons.

(*ii*) A revision of the rules regarding the imposition of handcuffs and fetters was also made. While the retention of these forms of punishment has been considered necessary, the rules have been revised so that this form of punishment should only be resorted to in special circumstances and be imposed under special conditions and for restricted periods.

(*iii*) As an incentive to good behaviour the rules relating to the grant of remission to prisoners were liberalised and increased. A prisoner who has been guilty of no offence for a year was permitted, in addition to any other remission earned under the rules, a period of 20 days' remission. The scale of ordinary remission was also increased from 3 to 4 days per mensem in the case of a convict and from 4 to 5 days per mensem for a convict Night Watchman.

(*iv*) The general holidays in jails were increased from 3 to 11 days per annum.

(*v*) The construction of special cells for the accommodation of prisoners suffering from tuberculosis was undertaken.

(*vi*) The issue of tobacco as an experimental measure to all prisoners for a period of one year was permitted. It was felt that this concession which is liable to be withdrawn as a punishment when prisoners are not well behaved, would act as an incentive to good conduct.

The question of the treatment of juveniles and of adolescents who come before the criminal courts is a problem presenting many difficulties. Magistrates continue to sentence juveniles, that is, persons under 16 years of age, to short terms of imprisonment, a practice which is regarded as undesirable both by jail authorities and social reformers. The Children's Act which has been passed by the Legislative Council will, it is hoped, improve the position to some extent because under this Act it is no longer possible to commit a child below 14 years to imprisonment and those above that age can be sent to jail only under the direction of Government. The question of reorganising the reformatories which will deal with juvenile offenders is under consideration.

The treatment of juvenile adults, that is to say, those over 16 years but under 21 years, is also receiving attention. The Inspector General of

Prisons points out that the Dharwar Juvenile Jail can take only non-habitual criminals who have been sentenced to at least one year's imprisonment. Under the present system a young thief receives a succession of short sentences which he undergoes in an ordinary jail with the result that he becomes a confirmed criminal; whereas if the law allowed him to be sentenced for his first or second offence to detention for at least a year in a Borstal institution, there would be every hope of turning him into a respectable citizen. Steps in this direction have already been taken by Government by the re-organisation of the Dharwar Juvenile Jail on the lines of a Borstal institution, and the question is being given careful attention by the Inspector General of Prisons.

The problem of dealing with overcrowding in jails has been taken in hand and now that the Hindalgi Central Prison has been opened and the Arthur Road Jail, Bombay, and the Nasik Central Jail and the Women's Jail at Yeravda are being completed, sufficient accommodation will exist in the Presidency proper to meet any likely increase for some years. Steps have already been taken by Government to reduce overcrowding in Sind by the extension of the jails at Karachi and Hyderabad and the re-opening of the Shikarpur prison.

The number of prisoners sentenced to simple imprisonment was 1,177 and it is pointed out that many of the prisoners sent to jail under section 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code are habituals with several previous convictions and the Inspector General suggests that it is undesirable that such persons should be maintained for months or years in entire idleness at the public expense.

DISCIPLINE

The discipline of the jails was highly satisfactory. The number of prisoners punished by the imposition of fetters fell from 7,343 in 1923 to 6,781 in 1924, and the number of jail offences dealt with in criminal courts also declined from 85 to 48. There was a slight fall in the number of offences dealt with by jail superintendents and the number of jail floggings inflicted decreased from 98 to 40.

HEALTH AND DIET

The health of the prisoners was good. The average daily sick in hospital fell from 281·1 in 1923 to 264·2 in 1924, the death rate per thousand being 10·3 against 10·9 in the previous year and was lower than in any other province. Four jails, namely Dharwar, Ratnagiri, Rajkot and the Deccan Convict Gang, Visapur, had no deaths at all.

Although there was an increase in the jail population, the cost of dietary fell by nearly Rs. 45,000, a result that is due partly to a fall in prices and partly to the economy exercised by superintendents and jailors. It has also been found that the system of departmental purchase is more

economical than the contract system and the intention is to extend this system as soon as further godown accommodation is provided. The total cost of maintaining the prisoners was just under 19¾ lakhs of rupees and the average cost per head was Rs. 158-9-2, compared with Rs. 151-10-8 in 1923. The increase was due to the larger population, to additional establishment charges owing to the opening of the Hindalgi Central Prison, and to the initial issue of two suits of clothing to each prisoner in accordance with the recommendation of the Indian Jails Committee. After deducting the profits earned by jail factories, the net cost amounted to nearly Rs. 17,30,000 as compared with Rs. 15,90,000 in 1923. The average profit per prisoner employed in jail manufacture amounted to Rs. 74 as compared with Rs. 74-13-8 in the previous year. The whole question of improvement in the organisation of jail industries, etc., has been under examination by a special officer whose report on the subject is awaited.

Criminal Tribes

The year has been a normal one and the progress all round has been steady, says the Annual Report of the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer for 1924-25. The probation work which has been started in Bombay is a fresh venture from which much is hoped in the future. It is a means of sorting out the good from the bad and it is hoped by means of it to complete the reform of many without having to place them in settlements at all. The Social Service League is considering taking up work amongst the Kaikadis who are in many ways a rather intractable class.

The total population in the Settlements on March 31, was 12,605 as against 12,861 in the previous year.

A new settlement at Kurla was established during the year, under the control of the Salvation Army. It is financed by the Swadeshi Mills, Kurla. It has at present only 18 settlers but the application of the Criminal Tribes Act to the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District will bring in a good many more. The special feature of this settlement is that the entire cost of its management is defrayed by the Swadeshi Mills, Kurla, and as such it is of a type unique in the Presidency.

A new settlement was established during the year, at Ambernath near Bombay. As the control over the Criminal Tribes became stricter in the mofussil, many expert and dangerous criminals gravitated towards the City of Bombay. The presence of thousands of members of up-country criminal tribes in a big city like Bombay, under no control whatever, became a matter of urgent concern and it was decided to establish a settlement at Ambernath. Ambernath contains at present 106 settlers. They are employed in a Match Factory, Woollen Mills and Chemical Works and the settlement has made a promising beginning.

A new experiment was made during the year, by allowing some settlers who were believed to have progressed towards reformation to settle down

in Bombay under as few restrictions as possible. They are subject to the supervision of probation officers appointed by the Wesleyan Mission and the American Marathi Mission. At present the total number of such persons is 2,681. Out of this total population the number of children attending school is 466. The number of adults working in the Mills is 1,086. The probation officers are responsible for providing labour for persons under their supervision, for maintaining some sort of check upon their movements and for securing the children's regular attendance at schools. If any person on probation reverts to crime he is brought back to the settlements established under section 16 of the Criminal Tribes Act. The settlers thus let out on probation are scattered over the City of Bombay. For effective control over them, it was proposed to bring them together to one place and for this purpose a new site was selected at Dharavi near Bombay. When suitable arrangements are completed at Dharavi almost all these persons will be removed there.

The problem of employment was easier than last year. When the Mill at Gadag closed down, it was necessary to find employment for nearly 200 persons, who were therefore removed to Gudihal near Hubli, where Railway tank work is in progress. Canal digging near Chik Mohad continues to provide labour for Hurs and other settlers. But work in Mills remains the chief source of employment. About 2,025 persons are working in the spinning and weaving mills at Sholapur, Gokak Falls and Hubli. " Some of these settlers have now begun to realise," says the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer, " that the road to success and comfort is by steady labour and small savings. The number of trained masons and carpenters is increasing and local contracts for petty construction works have been used to give them employment." In Hubli Settlement 173 men found work in Railway workshops as against 106 in the last year. The workshops afford facilities for training in skilled labour which the mills cannot offer and every skilled craftsman, whom the settlements can put on to regular work, helps to raise the status of the criminal tribe.

EDUCATION

Elementary education is free and compulsory for both boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 years and for all children who work as half-timers in the mills. In the latter case half-time attendance in the day school is compulsory until the pupils attain the age of 15 years. Out of a total population of 12,367 in all Settlements 2,341 children attend the schools.

The average number of children attending primary schools in all the settlements is thus 176·47 per mille of the population. This compares very favourably indeed with the number of children attending the primary schools per mille of the population in Bombay Presidency, which is 76·38. A few boys and girls attend other schools for higher education.

Assistance by way of scholarships, etc., is given to encourage likely students in further studies. If amongst the settlers suitable persons are found to serve as teachers or maistries preference is given to them. The education imparted in settlement schools differs considerably from that of the ordinary schools. Prominence is given to hand training.

MANUAL TRAINING

Manual training, drawing, paper sloyd, wood sloyd work, tin smith work, and tailoring are special features of settlement schools. 376 boys are now receiving manual training in sloyd work. The examination in carpentry is conducted on the lines of the Technical Institute, Bombay. Particular attention is given to the apprenticing of lads to trades in Bijapur, Gadag, Hubli, Sholapur and Khanapur settlements. Training is given in small carpentry workshops attached to each of these settlements. There are 558 lads in night schools where attendance is compulsory for all apprentices and lads below 18.

The Boy Scout movement is encouraged in every possible way in almost all the settlements. There are now 29 second class scouts, 326 tenderfoots and 180 boys under training. There are in all 46 trained Scout Masters. Girl-guide work in settlements has also made a promising beginning, there being 89 tenderfoots, 32 under training and 83 bluebirds. There are 22 teachers who have been specially trained in Girl-guide work.

The sixth annual settlement exhibition was held at Gadag in the beginning of February. The exhibits displayed were of a wonderfully high standard and in quality far superior to those of the previous years. Bijapur Industrial Settlement won the Industrial Shield this year. The medal for the best individual work was won by a Ghantichor for an excellent piece of beaten copper work, the replica of an old Bijapur cannon. The silver cup was won by Sholapur Settlement as a second prize. The examiners expressed great satisfaction at the excellence of the exhibits of stone work and wood work. " It has been felt," continues the Report, " that the absence of any real organisation for bringing directly to the notice of the public these products of industrial skill of the settlements is one reason why the general public and press have not fully recognised the substantial encouragement given to the Criminal Tribes in the settlements towards the leading of orderly, well regulated lives of industry."

The number of convictions in the year show a substantial decrease. There were 98 cases involving 157 persons compared with 103 cases involving 187 persons last year. The number of absconders remaining untraced on March 31, was 103. The corresponding figure for last year was 142. The percentage of absconders is only ·81 to the total population and shows that, as a general rule, the trust imposed by the settlement authorities is not misplaced. " Nevertheless it is far from encouraging," says the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer, " that as many as 157 persons had to be

sent to Jail during the year under report. Reformation work is slow and has many discouragements. For permanent success perhaps hope must centre in the children of the present settlers, and must overlook the deficiencies of the parents. The criminal habits of generations are not to be broken after only a few years' struggle. But the struggle itself is worth while if it does anything to form character and to help society by lessening the desire and the opportunity to commit crime. To prevent the contamination of others by the worst, incorrigible persons have been segregated from the rest in the Special Settlement at Bijapur. The removal of these persons of the worst character has afforded great relief to other settlements and helped their usefulness considerably." This special settlement had a population of 213 at the close of the year.

There are in all 78 children in the Children's Homes at Bijapur, Hubli and Baramati. A new hostel for children too old for the Children's Homes was opened at Bijapur during the year under report. The Women's Home at Hubli serves as a valuable Rescue Home for all Settlements and has at present 18 inmates.

HOUSING AND SANITATION

" The majority of settlers still prefer huts of their own construction to the quarters built by the Department," observes the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer. " Some of them are traditionally used to nomadic life and any attempt to make them live in chawls or substantial houses at this stage is useless. Their primitive way of building huts has however been greatly improved and every possible encouragement is given to them to make their huts better and more comfortable dwellings." House building advances, free of interest, are given to reformed settlers who agree to build houses on certain conditions.

The health of settlers during the year under review was on the whole satisfactory, despite sudden outbreaks of plague and cholera in a few places. The only serious epidemics which caused some anxiety were cholera at Gadag and plague at Bijapur, and plague and small-pox at Sholapur. But with the efforts of the medical officers in charge the settlements were soon restored to normal conditions. The total mortality in all the settlements averaged at 21·24 per thousand as against 27·63 in the Presidency.

The total recurring expenditure on the settlements was Rs. 3,29,583 and the non-recurring Rs. 83,205.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

THE agricultural season of 1924-25 was, on the whole, a satisfactory one, at least over a large part of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind, for the great anxiety caused in the early part was more than allayed by the splendid rains that fell in the middle and latter periods. Putting the seasonal history in a connected story it can be said that whereas the rains expected in June, July and even in the first half of August were so defective as very seriously to hamper the *kharif* sowings and the transplantation of rice throughout the Presidency, extra good falls at the end of August and in September considerably relieved the situation, improving the crops which had been sown, in many cases saving them from absolute destruction, and also enabling rice seedlings to be transplanted. These rains also were an excellent preparation for the *rabi* sowings which were carried out on a very large scale during September. The rain in the last week of that month, however, which in some parts extended into the early portion of October, unfortunately proved excessive in many places in Gujarat, in Khandesh and Ahmednagar in the Deccan, and in North Kanara in the Konkan checking the progress of the *rabi* sowings and damaging cotton, bajri and other crops to a varying extent. But there came a most beneficial break in the last week of October which gave time and opportunity for the reaping of the early crops and the completion of the sowing of the later ones. In fact, the outlook in November was so bright in most parts of the Presidency that it was felt that *rabi* crops would more than make up the loss caused by the failure of the *kharif* and the season would prove to be an abnormally good one. But there came a very severe frost in the third week of January which most unfortunately was both severe in its intensity and widespread in its extent, with the result that the outturn of crops was reduced in many areas and the high hopes once entertained were not realised to the full.

Taking the situation of the season all round however, it may be said that with all its drawbacks such as the deficiency of the early rains over a large part of the Presidency, the severe cold wave in the last week of January and the absence or inadequacy of winter rains in parts of the east Deccan and Karnatak, the season was satisfactory at least over a large part of the Bombay Presidency.

Area under cultivation.—In the Presidency proper the gross area cropped rose by 627,000 acres ; the districts that mainly contributed to the increase being the whole of Gujarat (+ 293,000 acres), most of the

Deccan (+ 118,000 acres) and the whole of the Karnatak (+ 203,000 acres) due to the abundance of the rains received in the later part of August and in September. Against this there was a decline in Poona (— 27,000 acres) in the Deccan due to the inadequacy of the early rains.

The area cropped more than once advanced by 44,000 acres, the districts which were mainly responsible for the increase being the whole of Gujarat (+ 78,000 acres) and the whole of the Karnatak (+ 19,000 acres) and the district of Satara (+ 19,000 acres) in the Deccan, due to the excellent rains in the middle of the season. Almost the whole of the Deccan (— 68,000 acres) on the other hand showed a setback owing to the short duration of the rainy period as a result of which no time was found for the raising of two crops.

The net area cropped rose by 581,000 acres and the increase was shared by all the districts except Ahmednagar (— 10,000 acres) which showed a setback on account of the insufficiency of the earlier rains.

In Sind, the gross cropped area, the area cropped more than once and the net cropped area, all rose by 453·41 and 411 thousand acres respectively owing to the plentiful, though late, inundation of the year.

Both the assessed and unassessed areas rose very slightly in the Presidency, the former by 12,000 acres and the latter by 24,000 acres, but in Sind the assessed area receded by about 102,000 acres while the unassessed area rose by 243,000 acres.

(In thousands of acres)

Details.	Presidency proper.			Sind.		
	1923-24	1924-25	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.	1923-24	1924-25	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.
A. Cultivated Area.						
Gross cropped area	27,511	28,138	+ 2·3	4,411	4,864	+10·3
Area cropped more than once ..	600	646	+ 7·6	398	439	+10·2
Net area cropped	26,911	27,492	+ 2·3	4,013	4,425	+10·3
Current fallows	6,507	5,962	— 8·4	5,353	5,072	— 5·2
Assessed	33,292	33,304	..	8,807	8,695	— 1·3
Unassessed	126	150	+16·0	559	802	+43·5
Total A ..	33,418	33,454	+ 0·1	9,366	9,497	+ 1·4

(In thousands of acres)

Details.	Presidency proper.			Sind.		
	1923-24	1924-95	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.	1923-24	1924-25	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.
B. Uncultivated Area.						
Available for cultivation—Culturable waste	943	913	— 3·2	6,100	5,967	— 2·2
Not available for cultivation. Forest ..	8,553	8,535	— 0·2	739	734	— 0·7
Not available for cultivation. Others ..	5,800	5,798	..	13,951	13,960	..
Total B ..	15,296	15,246	— 0·3	20,790	20,661	— 0·6
Grand Total ..	48,714	48,700	..	30,156	30,158	..

NATURE OF THE CROPS

More than two-thirds of the cultivated area of the Presidency is devoted to growing food-stuffs, bajri, paddy, wheat and gram being the most important crops. Cotton is the largest non-food crop.

In the Presidency proper, the area under food crops, 53,000 acres, advanced by 0·3 per cent. over the area of the last year, though it still fell short of the normal by 388,000 acres or 2·0 per cent. *Jowar* (mostly *rabi*), wheat and gram showed a considerable increase as a result of the excellent September rains which stimulated cultivation of these crops nearly everywhere. Against this, however, *bajri*, the minor cereals and pulses (chiefly the *kharif* ones) and sugarcane showed a considerable setback, the first two (*i.e.*, *bajri* and the minor grains) as a result of the insufficiency of the early rains and the last (sugarcane) due to the slump in the prices of *gul* and the deficiency of water-supply early in the season. Among non-food crops there was an extension under all the principal crops, *viz.*, tobacco, oilseeds and cotton which were cultivated on a larger scale in anticipation of high prices. The net result was an increase of 627,000 acres in the total cropped area over that of the preceding year.

In Sind, with the exception of rice which slightly declined in area owing to the late inundation of the year, and the minor food and non-food crops the area under which received a check as a result of the devotion of larger areas to the other more paying crops, there was an all-round increase to a varying extent under all the food and non-food crops in consequence of the plentiful inundation of the year.

Cropped Area

(In thousands of acres)

Crops.	Presidency proper.			Sind.		
	1923-24	1924-25	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—)	1923-24	1924-25	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—)
I. Food Crops.						
Jowari	7,447	8,635	+16·0	455	562	+23·5
Bajri	4,350	3,076	—29·3	1,013	1,029	+ 1·6
Paddy	1,811	1,887	+ 4·2	1,190	1,175	— 1·3
Wheat	1,131	1,418	+25·3	433	541	+24·9
Gram	422	501	+18·7	202	240	+18·8
Other Cereals and pulses ..	3,331	3,077	— 7·6	331	352	+ 6·3
Total cereals and pulses ..	18,492	18,594	+ 0·6	3,624	3,899	+ 7·6
Sugarcane	69	59	—14·5	4	4	..
Other food crops	473	434	— 8·2	50	49	— 2·0
Total food crops ..	19,034	19,087	+ 0·3	3,678	3,952	+ 7·4
II. Non-food crops.						
Tobacco	99	116	+17·2	5	7	+40·0
Oilseeds	966	981	+ 1·5	243	387	+59·3
Cotton	4,547	4,917	+ 8·1	342	400	+17·0
Other non-food crops ..	2,864	3,037	+ 6·0	143	118	—17·5
Total non-food crops ..	8,476	9,051	+ 6·8	733	912	+24·4
Total Crops ..	27,510	28,138	+ 2·3	4,411	4,864	+10·3

Variations in the principal crops were as follows :—

Jowar and Bajri.—Owing to the splendid rains received in the latter half of August and in September throughout the Presidency the area under *jowar* (specially *rabi*) increased by 1,186,000 acres, the districts mainly contributing to the increase being the whole of the Deccan (+ 1,083,000 acres) and the Karnatak (+ 174,000 acres). Against this there was a decline almost throughout the Gujarat division (— 71,000 acres) owing to the decline in the area under *kharif jowar* due to inadequacy

of the early rains. The area under *bajri* which is almost exclusively a *kharif* crop, showed, as may be expected, a considerable setback in its area (—1,273,000 acres) the decrease being shared by almost all the districts in the presidency and especially by the three principal *bajri* growing districts, *viz.*, Nasik (—311,000 acres), Ahmednagar (—528,000 acres) and Poona (— 216,000 acres). In Sind the area under both the staple crops (*viz.*, *jowar* and *bajri*) increased, that under the former by 107,000 acres and under the latter by 16,000 acres, the increase being shared by all the districts.

Wheat.—In the Presidency proper the area under this cereal considerably advanced (+ 288,000 acres) as a result of the copious rains of September which encouraged larger cultivation of the crop in many districts. The districts which mainly contributed to the increase were the whole of Gujarat (+ 90,000 acres) and the whole of the Deccan (+ 273,000 acres). Against this, however, there was a general decline (— 75,000 acres) in all the districts of the Karnatak where the area under the crop receded owing to the larger devotion of areas to the *jowar* crop which, in view of the prevailing scarcity of fodder in that division, was given preference on account of the fodder it supplies. In Sind the increase in area under the crop(+ 108,000 acres) was general, being shared by all the districts, and was due to the good inundation of the year.

Rice.—This shows an increase of 76,000 acres in the Presidency proper out of which Gujarat contributed 48,000 acres owing to the suitability of the June rains, and the Karnatak 22,000 acres where the good ante-monsoon showers encouraged larger cultivation, and the Konkan 6,000 acres as a result of the favourable early rains in many parts. The area under the crop was almost stationary in the Deccan. In Sind the area under the crop receded by about 15,000 acres owing to the late inundation of the year.

Other Cereals and Pulses.—Among these the area under *ragi* (*nachani*) in the Presidency proper extended by 31,000 acres as a result of the favourable early rains received on and near the *Ghats* where the crop is principally grown. Gram also showed an increase in area (+ 79,000 acres) owing to the plentiful September rains which encouraged larger cultivation of the crop, and the increase was shared by almost all the districts of the Presidency where the crop is grown. The variations in the other cereals and pulses such as barley, maize, etc., are too small to justify any special remarks. In Sind the area under gram advanced by 38,000 acres as a result of the favourable conditions prevailing, while the area under the other cereals and pulses such as barley, maize, etc., was either stationary or showed but very slight variations.

Oilseeds.—As a result of the good rains in the middle of the season in the Presidency and the favourable rise of the river in Sind the area under

oilseeds rose by 15,000 acres in the Presidency proper and by 144,000 acres in Sind.

Cotton.—In the Presidency proper on account of the stimulus of high prices fetched by the crop during recent years and also as a result of the favourable rains in the latter half of August and in September the area under cotton advanced further from 4,547,000 acres during last year to 4,917,000 acres during the year under report or by 8·1 per cent. over the last year and 27·4 per cent. over the normal. To the total increase of 370,000 acres in the Presidency, Gujarat contributed 73,000 acres, Deccan 43,000 acres, and Karnatak 253,000 acres. In Sind, the area under cotton advanced from 342,000 acres in the previous year to 400,000 acres during the year under review, thus showing a net increase of 58,000 acres for the Province or a rise of 17·0 per cent. and 63·9 per cent. as compared with the last year and the normal respectively. The increase in Sind was general and was due to the favourable inundation and stimulus of high prices.

Sugarcane.—In the Presidency proper, the area under sugarcane receded by 11,000 acres and the decrease was noticeable in all the sugarcane tracts. There were several causes that brought about this decrease. In the first place, the *rabi* rains of the last year (1923-24) being defective, there was shortage of water in the irrigation sources, chiefly in wells. To add to this, the early rains during the season under review were very defective, with the result that much insufficiency of water was felt at the time of the planting of the crop. The slump in the prices of *gul* in the commencement of the season had also an adverse effect on the raising of the crop.

Other Crops.—Among other crops in the Presidency proper, the area under tobacco rose by 17,000 acres. The fall under fruits and vegetables of 39,000 acres was almost general and due to deficiency of water-supply earlier in the season. Under fodder, however, there was an increase of 55,000 acres, the demand for fodder and the high rates commanded in the market inducing larger cultivation almost everywhere.

Irrigated Area

In the Presidency proper the irrigated area advanced from 938,000 acres in the previous year to 994,000 acres or by 6·0 per cent. during the year under report.

In Sind, the area irrigated rose appreciably, the area increasing from 3,070,000 acres during the previous year to 3,286,000 acres or by 7·0 per cent. during the year under review. The increase was shared by all the districts without an exception and was due to the plentiful inundation of the year.

(In thousands of acres)

Details.	Presidency proper.			Sind.		
	1923-24	1924-25	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.	1923-24	1924-25	Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent.
A. Area Irrigated.						
Irrigated from Government canals	219	254	+16·0	2,897	3,080	+ 6·3
Do. from private canals ..	53	70	+32·1	10	25	+150·0
Do. from wells ..	539	514	— 4·6	48	43	— 10·4
Do. from tanks ..	87	124	+42·5	1	..	..
Do. from other sources ..	40	32	—20·0	114	138	+ 21·1
Total, A. Area Irrigated ..	938	994	+ 6·0	3,070	3,286	+ 7·0
B. Crops Irrigated.						
Rice	129	176	+36·4	1,190	1,175	— 1·2
Wheat	155	156	— 0·6	297	332	+ 11·8
Barley	13	12	— 7·7	12	11	— 8·3
Jowari	199	226	+13·6	391	327	— 16·4
Bajri	83	64	—22·9	477	413	— 13·4
Maize	31	27	—12·9	3	3	..
Other cereals and pulses ..	111	118	+ 6·3	261	533	+104·2
Sugarcane	69	58	—15·9	4	4	..
Other food crops ..	116	121	+ 4·3	55	60	+ 9·1
Cotton	16	20	+25·0	342	398	+ 16·4
Other non-food crops ..	152	134	—11·8	225	296	+ 31·5
Total, B. Crops Irrigated ..	1,074	1,112	+ 3·5	3,257	3,552	+ 9·1

OUTTURN OF CROPS

In the Presidency proper except in Ahmedabad, Poona, Satara and Bijapur where the outturn of *kharif* jowar was only about half the normal, the yield of the crop varied from two-thirds to about five-sixths of the normal in the other districts.

The yield of bajri which came to only one-fourth the normal in Sholapur and was about half the normal in the Panch Mahals, Poona and Bijapur, ranged between two-thirds and five-sixths of the normal in the other districts.

Rice returned nearly or full normal yield throughout the Konkan except in parts of the Thana district where it suffered somewhat due to deficiency of rains and in parts of the Kanara district where it was spoiled by excessive rains in July. In the whole of Gujarat, in Khandesh,

Ahmednagar and Satara in the Deccan, and in Belgaum and Dharwar in the Karnatak, also it yielded between eighty per cent. and a full normal. In the remaining districts of Nasik, Poona, Sholapur and Bijapur, however, its outturn came only to about one-half the normal.

The yield of cotton came between three-fourths and nearly a full normal in Gujarat, the North Deccan including Ahmednagar and in Belgaum and Dharwar in the Karnatak. In the south and east Deccan (Poona, Sholapur and Satara) and in Bijapur in the Karnatak, however, the outturn ranged only between one-third and one-half the normal.

Wheat yielded about five-sixths of the normal in Khandesh, while in the other Deccan districts the yield was about three-fourths of the normal except in Poona where it was only a little over one-half. In the Karnatak the crop was almost a failure in Bijapur as a result of the deficiency of late rains, the dry winds that prevailed later in the season, a very serious attack of rust, and the severe frost in the end of January, with the result that in this district the yield came to only one-fourth of the normal. For the same reasons the outturn of the crop in the other two districts of the Division, *viz.* Belgaum and Dharwar, was not satisfactory, though it was better than in Bijapur, coming to one-half the normal. In Gujarat, the crop returned one-half the normal in Kaira and two-thirds of the normal in the Panch Mahals but in the other districts the yield ranged between eighty per cent. and a full normal.

While the area under food grains in the Presidency rose by only 0·5 per cent., the outturn rose by as much as 33·0 per cent. over the previous year, thus reflecting the comparatively satisfactory character of the season under review. In Sind, too, both the area and yield rose appreciably over the last year, the former by 7·6 per cent. and the latter by 11·7 per cent.

AGRICULTURAL STOCK

The quinquennial census of agricultural stock was held this year.

The total number of cattle is now returned at 84·80 *lakhs*. This is 3·6 per cent. in advance of the figure of 1919-20, though it is still short of the figure of 1915-16 by 7·9 per cent.

In Sind the total number increased by 507,000 or 27·9 per cent. and 146,000 or 6·7 per cent. as compared with 1919-20 and 1915-16 respectively.

Milch Cattle have advanced in number throughout the Presidency and Sind. The tendency of the people to rear milch cattle on a larger scale on account of the high prices commanded by milk and its by-products in the market everywhere and the absence of severe fodder famines (except in the Karnatak and east Deccan) during the last three or four years seem to be the two principal causes for a general increase under this head. The net result has been that while since 1919-20 their

number has increased by 3·4 per cent. in the Presidency it has advanced by as much as 28·0 per cent. in Sind.

Horses and Ponies.—In the Presidency proper, as compared with the previous cattle census of 1919-20 these show a decrease of about 5,000 head or 3·8 per cent. chiefly due to the advance of the better means of transport, such as motor cars and motor lorries. In Sind however where local conditions such as rough roads and sandy tracts do not permit of the above latest means of transport (motors) these animals still hold their own and are carefully reared as is evinced from an increase in their number from 72,000 in 1919-20 to 78,000 during the year under report.

Sheep and Goats.—These together show in the Presidency an increase of 15 lakhs or 51·9 per cent. as compared with 1919-20 but when compared with 1915-16 the rise is much less, being 3·53 lakhs or 8·7 per cent. In Sind however they show an advance of over five lakhs or thirty per cent. both as compared with 1919-20 and 1915-16.

CONDITION OF THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

The agricultural season of 1924-25 was, on the whole, so far as the actual produce of the land was concerned, decidedly better than its predecessor. The net result was that there was a general sufficiency of food and fodder in a large part of the Presidency.

Prices for articles produced by the people for their own use remained steady or slightly advanced but the rates of wages rose considerably while scarcity of labour was felt in many areas. The net result was that for the classes labouring for cash wages it was a very good year for while the prices of food-grains were somewhat high the wages of the labourers were still good as compared with past years. Similarly for the self-dependent small farmer with an economic holding, chiefly cultivating his own land himself and employing the minimum of labour, the year has been a favourable one for the generally good yields of his crops and the high prices fetched by the produce have given him a good return for his labour and enabled him to live in a state of reasonable ease and comfort.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ITS APPLICATION

" In preparing a report on the activities of the Agricultural Department during the year 1924-25," says the Director, " I do so in a more hopeful spirit than on any previous occasion. The year was, on the whole, a good one,— and, further, the purpose for which the Department exists, namely so to work as to bring about an increase in the value of the produce of the land in the Bombay Presidency, seems to have made considerable progress and to afford promise of greater progress in the near future. There are gaps

in that promise, and areas where little progress has been made, but generally speaking we can look round the Presidency and see, in most areas, improvements worked out or introduced by the Agricultural Department in large scale use, a gradually increasing desire among the cultivators for fresh developments, and a very strong movement towards the organisation of local agricultural development by the people themselves in many areas."

The improvement of crops largely by the supply of pure or more valuable seed, has been perhaps the biggest cause of the increase in the value of agricultural production.

One of the most striking examples of this is the gradual development of groundnut as a cultivator's crop in Khandesh and in Upper Gujarat by the use of quick-growing varieties of high oil content by the Agricultural Department. These have led to an enormous extension of the cultivation, as is shown by the figures for the area in 1912-13 and in 1924-25.

Groundnut Area.

	Khandesh.	North Gujarat.
	Acres.	Acres.
1912-13	4,119	395
1924-25	140,190	39,151

When it is considered that this enormous increase means *partly* that a crop worth Rs. 40 per acre is replaced by one worth Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 per acre, and *partly* that it means an equally valuable crop to grow in substitution for cotton, the full value of the change will be perceived. Khandesh groundnuts, from the stock imported by the Agricultural Department, have now established themselves on the Bombay market as the most valuable in India, and importation of new stock to assist in maintaining the standard has recently been made.

Wheat.—Another introduction of very great value is the wheats from Pusa and the Punjab, which have been eminently successful both in Gujarat and, as an irrigated crop, in Sind. In the last case "Pusa 12" wheat is spreading rapidly in Upper Sind where the area has increased from 5,000 acres to 14,000 acres in one year. This variety does not seem so useful for *bosi* land, and the Department is in active pursuit of another type which will fill the need. In South Sind "Punjab 11" wheat has spread in the Jamrao area, and will spread everywhere where the water supply allows wheat to be sown. In Gujarat, the type of wheat which has proved most successful has been "Pusa 4," and this has become exceedingly popular in the Panch Mahals and in Ahmedabad both on account of its increased yield (200 pounds per acre at Dohad) and the higher price it commands.

Cotton.—If we turn to cotton, perhaps bigger things have been achieved than in any other direction. In most cases, the varieties now supplied and maintained pure by the Agricultural Department, have been evolved

at the Department's experimental stations. In Sind, however, introduced American cotton is now spreading fast on the Jamrao, in spite of a water supply which continually gets poorer for American cotton. It is anticipated that the limit of American cotton in Sind will be about 25,000 acres, until the Sukkur barrage water becomes available, and the progress towards that point (using two varieties developed in the Punjab 'F4' and '285 F') is shown in the following figures :—

1917	..	78 acres	1922	..	7,000 acres
1919	..	800 ,,	1923	..	14,752 ,,
1921	..	3,078 ,,	1924	..	20,000 ,,

In other cases, the Department of Agriculture has evolved its own improved types, and spread them. These have now come into common use all over Gujarat south of the Narbada, all over Khandesh, over the whole of the Dharwar district, and to a less extent in other parts of the Southern Maratha Country and the Deccan, and in the '*deshi*' cotton growing area of Sind. The maintenance of these improved types pure means an elaborate organisation for annually producing fresh seed, multiplying this, and then distributing it, but the result has been that in Gujarat the whole area south of the Narbada is rapidly coming to grow one type (1027 A.L.F.) which is highly approved by the trade, and whose growing has been estimated by a commercial authority to mean an addition of 30 lakhs of rupees annually to the amount which would have been received if the crop had remained of the kind it was in 1919. A very similar position has been reached in the southern tracts of the Bombay Presidency, where with the co-operation of the Co-operative Cotton Sale Societies at Hubli and Gadag, quantities of pure seed respectively of improved Kumta cotton seed (Dharwar No. 1) and of improved Dharwar-American Cotton seed (Gadag No. 1) sufficient for from 60,000 to 100,000 acres of cotton are produced in each case, and distributed as seed guaranteed by the Agricultural Department, each year. The produce always obtains a substantial premium over the ordinary cotton of the country, and the two together mean almost certainly an increased money value of 30 lakhs of rupees a year.

In Khandesh, the basis of distribution is a high yielding, high ginning type (N. R.) which has become very popular, and means, probably, at least twenty pounds of cotton lint per acre over the ordinary very impure type usually grown. The Co-operative Banks at Dhulia and elsewhere, the Taluka Development Associations and other local bodies are now taking a very active part in spreading this, and it is now grown over an area which can be measured by *lakhs* of acres.

In Sind, a variety which is very similar to the "N. R." cotton of Khandesh, but which has been locally evolved is the basis of distribution. It has been called "27 W.N.," it gives 20 per cent. more yield than the local cotton, and the Department has now an efficient means of multiplying it.

At present the demand is far in excess of the supply, and the increase in yield alone by its use means an increase in receipts of many thousands of rupees each year.

Rice.—Another crop in which improvement has now been made and is being introduced on a large scale is rice in the north Konkan. Last year the Department was for the first time able to spread a new type of "Kolamba" rice (No. 42) on 10,000 acres. This type gives an increased yield of twenty per cent. and has been so successful that the demand last year was more than the supply. On 10,000 acres, it certainly means an increased return of Rs. 12 per acre, or over a lakh of rupees, and the automatic increase will rapidly multiply the return to many times this amount.

Tobacco.—From selection begun in 1922 at Nadiad, the Department has succeeded already in isolating a type of high quality (for the Indian market) and high yield, the seed of which has been distributed on a large scale in Upper Gujarat this year. This will be maintained pure, and means a very substantial addition to the agricultural returns of the Kaira and adjoining districts.

Sugarcane.—Any discussion of improvement of crops cannot leave out a consideration of sugarcane, where much has already been done and more is in immediate prospect. Indigenous cane has almost disappeared from the Konkan in favour of "Red Mauritius" introduced by the Agricultural Department with its better yield and more vigorous growth. In the Deccan Canal areas, the local "Pundia" is an excellent cane,—but some of the new types are in demand at least for special conditions.

Improved tillage.—The improvement of seed is one way of increasing agricultural yields. Others consist in better tillage and better manuring. As to tillage, improved implements have been found and introduced in almost every region except perhaps Upper Gujarat, which has very special difficulties. In the black soil areas, iron ploughs of a pattern originally introduced by the Agricultural Department in about 1906 have covered the country,—and are made locally on a very large scale by two firms in the Satara District, who now take most, though not the whole of the trade. It would be difficult to measure the value of this introduction, for it means better and more complete tillage, with substantially reduced draft, so that the necessary equipment in cattle can be reduced. The cost has now been lowered to an amount within the reach of most substantial cultivators, and this with the organisation of implement societies, the pushing of these ploughs by Taluka Development Associations, and propaganda by the manufacturing firms themselves, is rapidly leading to the replacement of the old Deccan plough. It is estimated that more than 100,000 iron ploughs are now in use in the Bombay Deccan, and the introduction of ploughs means that other improved implements follow in their wake.

In other areas, the introduction of improved implements is slower, but in Sind, at any rate, is now proceeding very fast. The Egyptian and Sarkar ploughs are now in general use and manufactured by every blacksmith in the Jamrao tract,—and though in other parts of Sind they have been found to be only applicable to certain lands,—yet for these they are going ahead. In the Jamrao tract it is estimated that the country plough has been replaced completely in the Mirpurkhas taluka and in parts of the Sinjhoro and Digri talukas, and to fifty per cent. or more in the remainder of the Digri and the whole of the Jamesabad taluka.

Ridge cultivation in Gujarat.—The outstanding feature of the last year in the matter of tillage has been the introduction of ridge cultivation on a large scale in the Surat District. This method, which has consistently given 25 per cent. greater yield than cultivation on the flat under the special conditions of Lower Gujarat, has already extended to 1,200 acres, and there is keen interest in the matter, and great demand for help in constructing ridges and in laying out the land for the purpose. The method is applicable to several lakhs of acres, and must yield an increased return of between Rs. 10 and Rs. 20 per acre.

Manuring.—The other method of increasing crops is by manuring, but, in most cases, the introduction of concentrated manures is an uphill task. Except in sugarcane cultivation in the Deccan, high manuring is not usual in India, but now progress is being made and attention may be called to the gradual increase in the use of the richer oil cakes (groundnut and safflower) in the Deccan for sugarcane, and the more recent growth of the use of Sulphate of Ammonia as the most concentrated manure available for the same purpose. This last material has constantly proved itself the most effective topdressing for sugarcane that we have, and it is now a regular Indian product. It has been pushed for the last five years, and every help has been given to firms which have taken up the matter. Last year the consumption was between two and three thousand tons, and it has now established itself,—resulting in a decreased cost and an increased return.

The use of concentrated manures for cotton (unless under irrigation) has been hitherto almost unknown, but as a result of intensive propaganda in East Khandesh, the use of Castor cake (200 to 300 pounds per acre) as a manure for cotton is becoming very popular and widespread. This is bound to grow, and seems the only way of bringing the yield of cotton lint in Khandesh (where it now is only about 100 lbs. per acre on the average) to a figure comparable with that in other countries. The opening for concentrated manures in this area is enormous, for in Khandesh alone the area under cotton in 1924-25 was about 14 lakhs of acres.

INSECT AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PESTS

The year under report was decidedly worse than 1923-24 as regards the damage to crops done by insect pests and plant diseases. Of the very

serious insect pests, the *jowar* borers were particularly active and did more damage than for several seasons. In many parts of Lower Gujarat about 70 per cent. of the plants were affected. Among other cereal crops, *bajri* was again very seriously attacked by swarming caterpillars in the northern part of the Deccan,—and the swarming caterpillar (*Katra*) of the Panch Mahals again did a great deal of damage to the young seedlings of maize and other cereal crops in both Kaira and the Panch Mahals. At almost all stages in their life, more particularly in the South of the Bombay Presidency, almost all the cereals had a serious attack by the wingless grasshopper (*Colemannia*). This insect which appeared a very serious menace twelve or thirteen years ago had almost disappeared, but during the last two or three years it has been again doing serious harm in increasing measure each year.

Special investigations are in hand against two of the important insect pests,—the *jowar* borer, and the spotted bollworm of cotton. All indications point in the former case to the stubbles and the straw as being the means by which the pest is carried from year to year,—and this being the case, a method of control can be suggested. The ploughing up of the stubbles seems to get rid of all danger from this source, and exposure of the dried straw to the sun in the field causes the destruction of by far the largest proportion of the hibernating insects. In the case of the spotted bollworm of cotton, an investigation is in hand which is being financed by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. The result so far seems to show that the most likely method of attack on this pest is the breeding and encouragement of certain parasites of the insect. The other bollworm pest of cotton,—the pink bollworm,—has been specially noted during the past year,—and there is decided suspicion that it is increasing in amount in the Bombay Presidency.

Fruit pests are decidedly increasing, the premier place in amount of damage being taken by the mango hopper or *jassid*. This pest has been very bad during the past two years, and in the present season the crop was a complete failure in a good many areas. Spraying with fish oil rosin soap is only partially successful in checking it,—and it has been decided to take up its study as a special matter of investigation in the coming year. The *white fly* pest of orange and lime gardens has again been very serious in the Khandesh fruit gardens, and a similar *aleurodid* pest on pomegranates has been noted as doing considerable damage.

As to damage caused by fungus diseases, special reference must be made to the very serious attack of rust in wheat in the extensive tracts under this crop in Dharwar and Bijapur. This disease did more damage in the year under report than in any recent year, and in a very large proportion of the area the crop was all but a total failure on this account.

Excellent results have also been obtained by improvements in existing seed and the finding of new types ; and examples of the work of cotton breeders of the Agricultural Department include a type of cotton for use in the Broach area with a Surat staple but with a ginning percentage of about 38 per cent., two selections from Wagad cotton which represent the best staple of that cotton with a high yielding power and ginning percentage,—and in the Kumta cotton tract a type with a Kumta staple but with a much higher ginning percentage and better colour. The Department is also working with success in obtaining wilt resistant types of cotton and in obtaining from a definite cross a much higher staple American cotton than has been hitherto grown capable of growing healthily in the tract. This last piece of investigation is being financed by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. In Sind the whole question of cotton improvement is determined by the fact that with the advent of the Sukkur Barrage water a very high class American cotton ought to be producible on a large scale and attempts are being made to find such a type.

Experiments are also in progress on rice in order to produce types which will give much higher yields without sacrifice of quality and considerable success has been attained. Promising results are being obtained with new types of *jowar*, while types of *nachani* have been isolated yielding from 20 to 30 per cent. more than the ordinary seed now in cultivation.

Other schemes for the improvement of crops including the study of Cotton Boll Shedding, study of Cotton Boll work, the improvement of grass lands, the eradication of certain types of weeds, the improvement of the potato crop and the *bajri* crop, the checking of the *jowar* stem borer, etc. are working satisfactorily.

Implements.—Investigations into tillage and the improvement of implements are making good progress and the Agricultural Engineer is devoting his time chiefly to the work of designing implements to meet some of the Presidency's special needs. Experiments in the use of motor tractors in land cultivation are being continued. The present position is that there seems to be no evidence that tractor cultivation is cheap but it does enable the necessary ploughing to be done quickly and it can be carried out at a time of the year when the ground is too hard for bullocks to work. They enable also deeper cultivation to be made. Much more experiment, however, under local conditions is still required before the position they are likely to take in farming in the Bombay Presidency can be judged.

Improvements in Cattle.—The work done in the last few years in trying to raise the standard of the cattle of the Bombay Presidency seems to be now bearing fruit in many areas. The Agricultural Department controls no fewer than half a dozen herds of pedigree cattle of different breeds.

These are at the Chharodi Farm in North Gujarat and the Surat Farm in Lower Gujarat, both of which are maintained for the *Kankrej* breed and from which bulls are distributed into the Districts on the premium system : the Bankapur Farm in Dharwar from which Amrit Mahal cattle are distributed, and the Willingdon Cattle Farm near Karachi where a very fine herd of red Karachi cattle is being maintained with a few Thar-Parkar animals there also. In addition to these Government herds, there are several other stocks of cattle from which first class bulls can be obtained. Of these that of the Shirpur Agricultural Association in Khandesh is very prominent for its fine Tapti-Khillari animals.

During the year the Gowrakshaks of Kandivli and Mulund have taken up seriously the improvement and distribution of *Gir* cattle as part of their regular work, assistance being given by Government in the form of a Manager in each case for the herd. The pioneer attempt in this direction was made at Kandivli in March 1925 when the arrangements were finally inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay.

From these and other sources premium bulls are issued both to individuals and to co-operative breeding societies, and under certain rules, these are maintained by Government for public use in their respective areas. The number of Government premium bulls now standing for service in the several sections of the Bombay Presidency is as follows :— Gujarat 31, Deccan 15, Karnatak 10, Konkan 3, Sind 4. In some of these areas the effect of the premium bulls has been a very visible improvement in the standard of the animals generally to be found in the villages.

Four successful cattle shows were held, one at Chharodi (Gujarat) for the *Kankrej* breed, one at Mahud Budruk (Satara) for the Mhaswad Khillari breed, a third at Athani (Belgaum) for the Krishna Valley breed, and a fourth at Karachi for the red Karachi cattle. The show arranged at Bankapur for the *Amrit Mahal* breed had to be cancelled on account of rinderpest which was very prevalent during the year.

PROPAGANDA AND ORGANISATION

The discovery of improvements is a very small step in the greater part of Western India to getting them introduced. But the first part of this report shows how this introduction can be and is being brought about in very many cases. The Agricultural Department has its officers in every district whose business it is to secure this introduction, and the number of these has been substantially increased during the year under report. Further in a number of cases, the Department has now got the very powerful co-operation of the Officials of the Revenue Department for the introduction of certain improvements. The extension of the use of copper sulphate as a remedy for smut in *jowar* in the year under report has been largely the result of their activity.

Again, reliance is now being placed on the enthusiasm of local bodies, the Taluka Development Associations subsidised by Government, to get many improvements adopted and their activities have been very widely effective during the last year. There are now 48 Taluka Development Associations in the Bombay Presidency, and they have, altogether, received a Government subsidy of Rs. 24,312. They have been very actively engaged in extending the use of improved implements of many kinds, of improved seed of cotton, wheat and other produce and of methods for the prevention of smut in *jowar* and of other diseases. They have organised shows, have pushed the formation of co-operative societies for the sale of produce or the purchase of seed, and in one case at least have arranged an admirable system of fodder storage. And, generally, these associations, the first of which was only founded in 1922, have become a very essential part of agricultural propaganda in the country.

In the matter of rural organisation the Agricultural Department works in close co-ordination with the Co-operative Department, as it is the recognised policy that wherever possible any attempt to organise the rural community should be on co-operative lines. Hence the matter of the development of co-operation for the purchase of agricultural requisites or for the sale of agricultural product has a peculiar interest and every district officer of the Agricultural Department may in some sort be looked upon as a co-operative organiser. The co-ordination between the work of the two departments—Agricultural and Co-operative—is secured by the fact of its being directed in each part of the Bombay Presidency by Divisional Boards of Agriculture predominantly non-official,—which meet once a quarter and control the propaganda and organising work of both departments in the various districts.

The result of the efforts of all concerned in the matter of co-operative purchase of agricultural requisites has not been great. A few societies exist for the co-operative supply of concentrated manures, seeds and the like, but they do not so far seem to have met much of a realised need. On the other hand it may now be said that societies for the supply of implements of all kinds on hire are an established success in many areas. One of the secrets of their recent success (as against much earlier failure) has been their organisation on a large enough scale to ensure business management.

On the other hand in the matter of co-operative sale of produce, great things have been accomplished and there has been much extension in the year under report. The co-operative cotton sale societies at Hubli and Gadag, existing primarily for the sale of improved cotton derived from seed provided by the Agricultural Department, are a monument of what can be done in the co-operative organisation of sale. Their work has extended during the present year, and they have become not only sellers of produce

but also growers on a large scale and distributors of improved seed. The organisation for Cotton Sale in Gujarat is not so advanced, and the societies there simply arrange for the ginning and sale of their members' produce in common, and reserve the seed for further distribution,—but they have much developed in 1924-25. The recent attempts at co-operative sale of *gul* in the Mutha Canal Area seems to have become an established success in 1924, and this is an advance on the semi-co-operative method which has been in use in the Nira, Godavari and Pravara Canal Areas for some years, where a branch of the Bombay Central Co-operative Bank has advanced money and supplied manure to local co-operative credit societies, and sold produce on their behalf.

Cotton Transport Act.—The working of the Cotton Transport Act during the year under report has not been without difficulty, but has been on the whole a considerable success. In the southern areas, it has completely stopped the mixing of the good cotton at Hubli and Gadag with inferior Khandesh and Persian Cotton, and this is a great advance.

In Gujarat, the difficulties have been greater, but at least the Act has secured that inferior cotton from north of the Narbada cannot now be brought into the Surat Area for mixing,—and it is expected very soon that the whole of the area south of that river will be growing only one type of cotton. If this can be secured it will certainly lead to a higher reputation for this cotton, and dealing in it with more confidence than hitherto.

Rural Organisation.—As regards the general question of rural organisation, little progress has been made or attempted. The present situation in the rural areas is admittedly unsatisfactory,—the land is not producing what it might easily produce,—the labour involved in growing what is now obtained is unnecessarily large,—and yet, there is an enormous amount of spare time to the workers who are compelled to remain in the villages. In attempting to consider the rural reconstruction required it is not one man or one department that is concerned. It involves the consolidation of holdings, the communal or co-operative holding of implements which are beyond the power of individual peasant cultivators, and the development of secondary occupations. The necessity is beginning to be realised, and this is the first step towards that reconstruction which is needed, as a complement to the technical improvement, and the consequent possible increase in produce to which we are now in so many cases able to indicate the road.

SERVICE

Apart from research and propaganda, there are certain services which the Agricultural Department performs for the agricultural public, the chief being the supply of certain kinds of seed in large quantities and of implements and manures in certain cases, the boring of wells and the designing of pumping plants, and in recent years the designing of land improvement works for construction by individuals or by co-operative societies.

Land Improvement.—The loss which annually occurs owing to the run-off from the surface of the water which falls in the famine districts is very great indeed, and there have always been efforts by almost every energetic cultivator to prevent these losses, and to provide irrigation from tanks formed by such run-off water, or to embank valleys so as to increase the water in wells lying below the bund, or to protect land by terraces or bunds across the surface. Technical skill is not always present, and to meet the need for this, two men have been appointed. The first is an engineer called a Land Development Officer whose duty is to prepare small schemes belonging to each of the above kinds. To show the demand for his services I may say that during the year under report,—the first year of the appointment, no less than fifty-two schemes were placed before him for investigation. Of these the Poona district was responsible for 9, Sholapur for 18, Satara for 4, Ahmednagar, Khandesh and Nasik for 7, the Karnatak for 7, the Konkan with Kanara for 6 and Gujarat for 1. Of the schemes no less than 21 were for diverting streams for irrigation purposes, 8 were for storage reservoirs, and 12 were for help in making field embankments. The remainder were for miscellaneous purposes. The appointment promises to be of very great value, more particularly for the smaller type of work, and for those which deal with land protection rather than for irrigation schemes as such.

The Department has also a special man engaged in the Southern Division, who devotes himself entirely to the preparation of schemes for field embankments or *tals*, in this part of the Presidency. In the year under report he prepared plans for twenty new schemes of this character, chiefly in the Gadag taluka of Dharwar (eleven schemes) and in the Athni taluka of Belgaum. Most of these are for private owners, but co-operative bunding societies are being attempted. The whole work is attracting a good deal of interest and attention and the applications for the services of the bunding officer are far more than can be attended to. There seems a great opening for the extension of work of this character, in areas where water is the most precious commodity a farmer possesses.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Agricultural College.—The Poona Agricultural College has now entered on its seventeenth year, and it is as popular as ever. This year there are 85 new students, which is as much as the college can deal with. The total number now in the college is 184. The demand for admission from all parts of India and from many places outside continues.

During the year the Bombay University has considered, in response to many representations, the revision of the agricultural course at the College,

and has finally approved of a draft syllabus recommended by a committee appointed to consider the matter. The main features of the new course are the increased importance assigned to agricultural engineering, the stress laid on agricultural economics and the reduced amount of specialisation allowed to the students.

Agricultural Schools.—The number of vernacular agricultural schools working remains six, as before. These are as follows, with the number of students in each :—

Marathi.—Loni (Poona) 42, Jambul (Thana) 22, Dhulia (West Khandesh) 22,

Kanarese.—Devi-Hosur (Dharwar) 26.

Gujarati.—Godhra 31, Surat 26.

These remain popular and all receive a certain amount of support from District Local Boards, and some from private bodies. The boys leaving them are in demand, and either go to their own farms or are snapped up by others who need lads with such training. During the year the Department has been approached to assist in the establishment of an agricultural school at Kopargaon to be conducted by the Ahmednagar District Local Board. An offer has been made by Government to hand over a large part of the buildings on the Department's farm there for the purpose of the school, and this offer is now under consideration.

Agricultural Bias Schools.—The new type of primary schools with an agricultural bias, first established in 1922, has been extended during the year, and, as a temporary arrangement, a limited number of teachers have been trained by the Agricultural Department to take charge of them, on behalf of the Education Department, at most of the agricultural schools. The Inspector of Agricultural Schools inspects the technical work done in these schools. The results so far obtained seem satisfactory, the schools are becoming popular, and there seems a very strong feeling in many District Local Boards and elsewhere to extend their number as fast as teachers trained to the work can be produced.

Statistics.—The Director of Agriculture is responsible for the agricultural and price statistics published in the Bombay Presidency, for the forecasts of crops issued periodically during the year, and for the preparation of the Statistical Atlas which should be brought out once in ten years. Forecasts are being issued in increasing numbers, as forecasts of three new crops have been introduced in recent years. Forecasts for the *bajri* crop, and for both the *kharif* and *rabi jowar* crops were first issued three years ago, and in 1924 for the first time a forecast of the castor crop was brought out, at the request of a number of commercial firms in Bombay.

As regards the Statistical Atlas, this will definitely be issued in November 1925, being based chiefly on the data for 1922-23. The work of compiling it was practically complete in April 1924, but the printing has taken long. It will be of great advantage to have a more up-to-date account of each district (and each taluka) in the Bombay Presidency, for the last edition of the Statistical Atlas, published in 1906, is based on figures for the years 1903-04.

FINANCE

The expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 15,90,000 during the year 1924-25, as against Rs. 15,12,000 incurred in the previous year. The receipts amounted to Rs. 3,28,000 as against Rs. 3,39,000 in the previous year.

As regards the Personal Ledger Account, which is used for financing seed, etc., the total amount advanced amounted to Rs. 1,15,000 while the recoveries credited during the year were Rs. 1,65,000.

Subsidies were received during the year from the Indian Central Cotton Committee, for special work to the amount of Rs. 54,431 and Rs. 15,000 from the Sir Sassoon David Trustees.

NOTE ON THE WEATHER

I. The period, April and May 1924.—In the south of the Peninsula thunderstorms were fairly frequent in the beginning of the month of April and these caused widespread rain. The total rainfall of the month was 60 per cent. in excess in the Konkan, normal in the Bombay Deccan, and in defect by 43 per cent. in Sind; the weather was absolutely dry in Gujarat and Kathiawar. The outstanding features of the weather during the month of May were the persistence of cold weather conditions and the weakness of the inflow of moist winds from the seas into the Peninsula which occurred between the 12th and the 29th. The total rainfall of the month was 93 per cent. in excess in Sind, normal in Gujarat and Kathiawar, and in defect by 67 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan; no rainfall occurred in the Konkan.

II. The Monsoon period, June to September 1924.—The Arabian Sea monsoon appeared on the Malabar coast on the 2nd June, about the normal date, and was vigorous there till the 4th. On the 6th it began to advance northwards extending into the Deccan plateau on that date and into the south Konkan on the 9th; it reached Bombay on the 12th. During the next four days fairly widespread rain occurred on the west coast with occasional extensions into the Deccan and Gujarat. But adverse pressure conditions which persisted out at Sea did not allow the progress and development of the main monsoon current to occur with its usual rapidity. On the 16th however a depression appeared over

south Kathiawar and Bombay got its first heavy rainfall. This depression, in conjunction with a western disturbance, caused locally heavy rain in Kathiawar resulting in floods, which caused several breaches in the railway lines and some loss of life and damage to property. After the 20th this branch of the monsoon weakened and there was practically a break in its activity till the 27th. A revival occurred thereafter and by the end of the month monsoon conditions had been established in the Deccan. The total rainfall of the month was in defect by 44 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan and normal in the Konkan, Gujarat and Kathiawar. No rainfall occurred in Sind. In the month of July the general strengthening of the monsoon currents resulted in fairly copious and well distributed rainfall over the country and the occurrence of exceptionally heavy rain in Malabar and the adjacent Ghats. During the first fifteen days of July the monsoon was fairly active, but during the next ten days it was chiefly controlled by a type of pressure distribution that was, as usual, associated with a strong Bay current and a retreat of the Arabian Sea current towards south India. In Malabar and the neighbouring Ghats the rainfall was surprisingly heavy ; for example, the total rainfall from the 16th to 23rd was 35 inches at Calicut and 27 inches at Cochin, while Mercara had 63 inches during the period 14th to 24th. Newspapers have reported that in the Mysore hill tracts a rainfall of 116 inches was recorded from July 1st to 21st. This persistent heavy rain, more especially in the Ghats, caused very serious and extensive floods in south India. Many bridges were washed away or damaged beyond repair ; railway and telegraphic communications were seriously interrupted ; the inundation of vast expanses of country caused great loss of property and rendered thousands of people homeless. Many lives were reported to have been lost. By the 21st however pressure conditions had begun to alter and the Arabian Sea monsoon then extended again northwards, reaching the Deccan on the 22nd, Gujarat on the 24th, and Sind on the 25th. Thereafter till the 29th rainfall was more or less widespread outside south Madras and both branches of the monsoon combined to give locally heavy rain in northwest India. During the 24 hours ending at 8 hours on the 28th, Ahmedabad had 5", Deesa 4" and Mount Abu 5", the last-named station registering in addition 5" on the previous day. On the 30th and 31st the Arabian Sea monsoon showed signs of weakening. The total rainfall of the month was in defect by 53 per cent. in Sind, 23 per cent. in Gujarat and 9 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan and in excess by 16 per cent. in the Konkan. Skies were clouded as usual. On the mean of the month maximum temperature was above normal in north Gujarat ; the minimum

did not differ much from the normal. The Arabian Sea monsoon, though very vigorous in Malabar, produced rain only occasionally in the interior of the Peninsula during the first 12 days of August, its activity being diverted to the central parts of the country and east Rajputana under the influence of a depression, which travelled across the Peninsula. With the disappearance of the depression on the 12th, a temporary break set in over almost the whole field of its activity. The monsoon revived on the 18th and widespread rain occurred in the Peninsula and local rain in Gujarat during the next five days. There was a general strengthening of the Bombay monsoon and widespread rain in the Peninsula, the central parts of the country and northwest India during the last week. The total rainfall of the month was in excess by 43 per cent. in the Bombay Deccan and in defect by 75 per cent. in Sind, 23 per cent. in the Konkan and 6 per cent. in Gujarat and Kathiawar. The principal feature of the temperature distribution was a prevalence of high maximum temperatures in the Deccan from the 12th to the 21st, the period during which the break in the Arabian Sea monsoon lasted. The region of high temperature shifted northwards to Rajputana west and Sind, where temperature was higher than usual from the 22nd to the 24th. In September the Arabian Sea monsoon was strong, mainly owing to the influence of two depressions from the Bay of Bengal, and gave abundant rain for this time of the year in the Peninsula, the central parts of the country and northwest India, with unusually heavy falls in Rajputana. The total rainfall of the month was in considerable excess in Sind, in moderate excess in Gujarat, in slight excess in the Bombay Deccan and in slight defect in the Konkan.

III. The Retreating Monsoon Period, October to December 1924.—Although the southwest monsoon conditions persisted in the middle of the Bay of Bengal, and a storm and a well-marked depression formed there during the first fortnight and abnormally heavy rainfall occurred from north Hyderabad to the west United Provinces and the southeast Punjab during the passage of these depressions across the country, the Bombay Presidency failed to receive its normal amount of rainfall. Western disturbances, too, failed to affect the weather in northwest India to any appreciable extent. The month of November began with a strengthening of the northeast monsoon in the south of the Peninsula and widespread rain fell on the 1st and 2nd to the south of latitude 16°. On the 3rd rainfall ceased in the Konkan. No rainfall occurred in Gujarat, Kathiawar and Sind. Six western disturbances passed into northwest India during the month of December and caused the normal amount of rainfall in Sind. Rain extended into the Bombay Deccan on the 8th, under the influence of the second western depression, which had its centre in north Gujarat on that date and moving north-north-eastwards disappeared in the hills on the 12th. It was nearly general there on the 8th and was followed by isolated falls till the 12th. The total rainfall of the month was in consequence 40 per

cent. in excess in the Bombay Deccan. No rainfall occurred, however, in the Konkan and very little in Gujarat and Kathiawar.

IV. The period, January to March 1925.—No rainfall occurred in the Presidency during January. The cold waves, which followed the third and fourth western disturbances, affected the frontier on the 17th and advancing eastwards caused very low temperatures over the whole country except the southern half of the Peninsula. Several stations recorded temperatures lower than any known in previous years for the month; thus Bhuj one day reported a minimum of 37·3°, Ratnagiri 55·1°, and Poona 38·9°. The only part of the Presidency where rainfall occurred during the month of February was Sind and there too it was in defect by 91 per cent. The cold spells associated with these disturbances were well pronounced and during the period 10th to the 22nd, low temperatures were particularly marked everywhere. Weather became unsettled in the neighbourhood of Ceylon on the 12th of March and a storm developed in the Bay off the south Coromandel coast on the 15th which disappeared on the 16th. This is a very rare occurrence for the month of March, and it caused unseasonable rain in the south of the Peninsula.

PRICES

Retail Prices.—There was a rise in the price of food-grains in the Presidency as compared with last year. The index number was highest in the Central Division. The Southern Division recorded a fall from the level of the previous year.

Northern Division.—The index for food-grains alone was higher by twelve points than last year. A slight upward tendency was reported from Panch Mahals and Surat. Kaira and Thana only reported a downward tendency. Rice was highest at Kaira, wheat and milk at Thana, beef at Ahmedabad and mutton at Surat. Jowari and bajri were cheapest at Kaira.

Central Division.—The rise in foodgrains was greater than in other divisions, the general level of prices being nearly forty per cent. above pre-war. Prices generally ruled high, the main causes being heavy exportation from Ahmednagar, unfavourable early rains at Nasik, unseasonal excessive rains at West Khandesh and severe cold about harvest time at Satara and Sholapur. Bajri was dearest at West Khandesh.

Southern Division.—The general level of food-grains was actually lower owing to a decline in the prices of jowari, bajri and turdal. Favourable harvests were reported from Belgaum and Dharwar. In Kanara the price of cocoanuts went up owing to a smaller yield and greater demand. Betelnut and pepper did not vary much in price but cardamoms increased to Rs. 100 per maund. In Bijapur the prices of ghee and milk

remained unchanged. Wheat and pulses fared badly at Dharwar and scanty supply from neighbouring districts prevented the expected decline in the price of jowari. Rice was cheapest at Dharwar and jowari, tea and ghee dearest at Kanara.

Sind.—The comparative rise in prices was greatest in Sind. Wheat, Jowari and bajri—especially wheat—recorded an abnormal increase in prices. A favourable season was reported only from Hyderabad but even there there was no appreciable decrease in prices. A spell of cold weather, accompanied by frost leading to a partial failure of rabi crops, and abnormal floods, causing considerable damage to Kharif crops, were the chief factors that contributed to the rise in prices. Turdal and cocoanut oil were dearest at Nawabshah and gram at Thar and Parkar. Wheat was cheapest at Sukkur and turdal at Karachi.

Bombay City.—In Bombay City the comparative rise in food-grains was greater than the rise in all food stuffs. Other food articles remained more or less stationary. The working class cost of living index which takes into account food, fuel and lighting, clothing and house-rent registered a rise of five points. The variations in the prices of food-grains are given in the following table :—

July 1914 = 100

Divisions	Unweighted index numbers*			
	July 1914	March 1923	March 1924	March 1925
Northern Division	100	125	126	138
Central Division	100	127	127	139
Southern Division	100	135	144	137
Sind	100	120	116	137
Presidency (excluding Bombay City) ..	100	125	128	137
Bombay City	100	131	122	136

*Food-grains included :—Rice, wheat, jowari, bajri, gram and turdal.

Wholesale Prices.—A consideration of wholesale prices in Bombay City shows that cereals rose up to August 1924, declined up to December and again rose till March 1925. The food index fluctuated more often upwards than downwards, the non-food index declined from September 1924 and the general index number moved in close correspondence with the non-food index. Raw cotton registered a rise up to July 1924 and dropped afterwards. The price of cotton manufactures steadily declined.

The changes by groups in the index numbers of wholesale prices in Bombay are set out in the following table :—

July 1914 = 100

Groups	March				Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent. in March 1925 over or below March 1924.
	1922	1923	1924	1925	
Cereals	177	127	123	154	+ 25
Pulses	166	93	84	99	+ 18
Sugar	224	242	220	175	— 20
Other food	241	296	263	219	— 17
All food index number	198	179	165	164	— 1
Oilseeds	140	139	129	136	+ 5
Raw cotton	174	213	244	209	— 14
Cotton manufactures	251	227	238	212	— 11
Other textiles	188	195	235	160	— 32
Hides and skins	168	134	140	145	+ 4
Metals	192	187	171	162	— 5
Other raw and manufactured articles..	195	176	164	166	+ 1
All non-food index number ..	193	183	190	174	— 8
General Index number	195	182	181	171	— 6

Broach cotton varied between Rs. 532 and Rs. 732 per *bhar* (24 maunds of 40 lbs. each). Seed cotton rose from Rs. 216 to Rs. 240 per *bhar*. The Dharwar cotton crop fared badly owing to adverse easterly winds.

The following table shows the food, non-food and general index numbers of wholesale prices in Karachi :—

July 1914 = 100

Month and year	Food	Non-food	General Index No.
July 1914	100	100	100
March 1922	203	162	179
March 1923	134	163	152
March 1924	124	166	149
March 1925	151	162	158

A definite upward tendency was noticeable in the food index. The non-food index was highest during July 1924 but went down subsequently. The general index also was highest during July1924 and went down afterwards but not to the same extent as did the non-food index. The price of unginned cotton was reported to be low at Thar and Parkar and Nawabshah owing to slackness of foreign trade consequent on unfavourable market conditions.

LABOUR AND WAGES

Taking the purchasing power of the rupee as 16 annas in the pre-war year its urchasing power fell from ten annas and five pies for the year 1923-1924 to ten annas and two pies for the year 1924-1925. This was due to the fact that during 1924 the cost of living rose steadily by eleven points between April and August and remained at the same constant level from August to the end of the year. Expressed in terms of percentages the cost of living was 57 per cent. higher than that of July 1914 during the year under review as compared with 54 per cent. in the previous year. The effect of the fall in the purchasing power of the rupee appears to have had its corresponding effect on wages throughout the Presidency because wages of all classes of labour rose by about five per cent. during 1924-1925. The position of labour in the districts to-day is much better than at any time since the beginning of the century. Prices reached their peak in 1920 and, with the exception of a short upward tendency, as shown above, have fallen by over twenty points during the last five years. Wages, however, have shown a constant upward tendency during this period which suggests that the material condition of labourers in this Presidency, as expressed in terms of real wages, has considerably improved.

This view is in harmony with the opinions expressed by many Collectors of Districts. Reports from the Northern Division state that, taken altogether, the labouring classes are in a happy condition. Several Collectors from the Central Division are of opinion that the general position of the average labourer is good and that there is an improvement in his condition. Reports from the Southern Division also show that the economic condition of labour was satisfactory throughout the year whilst those from Sind state that the rates of wages are very high in comparison with pre-war rates and that they do not appear to be much affected by a rise or fall in prices. A most gratifying observation frequently made is to the effect that labour has improved its standard of living in many parts of the Presidency during recent years. On the other hand, there is no corresponding increase in efficiency. In the Kolaba District, the Tata Electric Company had to import many labourers from outside owing to the fact that local labour was not sufficiently efficient. In this district high wages have neither conduced to increased efficiency nor to the adoption of better conditions of living; and greater independence has

only resulted in slowness and indifference to work. The tendency to squander surplus income is becoming more marked and absenteeism is on the increase, for the reason that the average agricultural labourer is generally not inclined for continual work. If he is able to sell his labour at a good price he knocks off from work for two or three days in a week. This is one of the principal reasons given why the supply of labour in several tracts is not sufficient to cope with the demand.

With the exception of the general migration of labour to the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur, and, in the cotton season, to the two Khandesh Districts, there was not much inter-district migration during the year in the Presidency proper. Contrary to the usual custom, very few Cutchi, Thari and Marwari labourers migrated to Sind, the reason being that these people were able to eke out a satisfactory existence in their own territories. But there was considerable inter-district migration in Sind itself on account of the ready employment available on the various works in connexion with the Lloyd Barrage.

Agricultural labour.—In the Northern Division agricultural labour continued to be scarce and costly. In the Ahmedabad District there is a crying need for a more settled agricultural population on account of an increase in the areas for cultivation although vast tracts of waste still remain to be converted into arable land. In Broach, with the exception of the Bahra Tract of the Vagra Taluka where the season was not entirely favourable, there was the same usual scarcity for field labourers. In the harvesting season cultivators had to pay as much as a rupee a day with food per head for the labour which they required. However, much of the agricultural work in this district is done by permanent servants who are paid in cash along with food and clothing. Their status is in many cases no better than that of bondsmen but their position is fairly secure. In the Thana District cultivators are endeavouring to maintain a hold on their employees by making advances of money for marriages but in many cases the labourers leave their masters as soon as they are married because they know that no action can to be taken against them under the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act or any other law except through the long and tedious procedure of the Civil Courts.

In the rural areas of the Central Division the average wages of agricultural labourers rose from six annas and three pies per head per day to seven annas and six pies or by twenty per cent. This was due to the generally favourable character of the season in all districts with the exception of West Khandesh where no unusual demand for agricultural labour was in evidence. The agricultural labour outlook is however causing great anxiety to the richer cultivators in this district. Hitherto they were accustomed to a local supply of comparatively docile, if not efficient, Bhil Saldars. Nowadays, every Bhil hopes to set up as a free cultivator and is becoming possessed of ideas of independence. The same occurs

with the poor men of other castes who have hitherto worked as Saldars and servants.

In the Southern Division the supply of labour was more than sufficient to meet the local demand on the coast ; but above ghats, it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain the labour required for agricultural operations ; and cultivators and the owners of the spice gardens have to depend almost entirely on labour imported from the neighbouring districts of Dharwar and Bijapur and from Goa. The work of cutting and destroying prickly pear and of repairing the tanks provided sufficient work in the Dharwar District for a considerable number of people during the off season. In the Kanara District there was much agricultural unrest on account of the revolt against the special tenures on which labourers hold land, to the insecurity of tenure of the tenants and to a general revolt against and a breaking away from old and established customs. Bijapur was favoured with a good season and as a result the wages of field labour rose by nearly 20 per cent. in this district during the year under review.

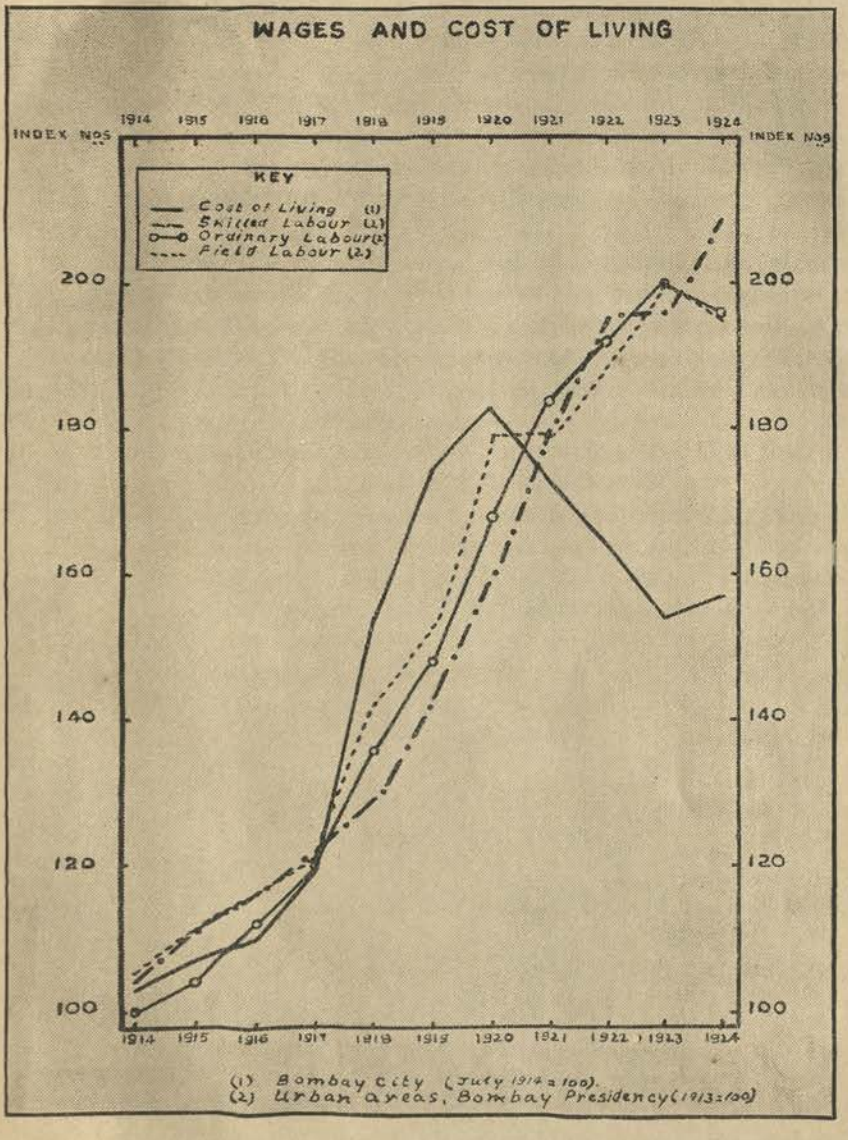
In Sind the wages of agricultural labourers in urban areas rose by nearly twenty per cent. over the levels of the previous year and in rural areas by seven per cent. In the Hala Division of the Hyderabad District labour was very scarce at the time of harvesting on account of a general outbreak of malaria. A considerable number of agricultural labourers took up employment at the works of the Lloyd Barrage, but, speaking generally there was a sufficient supply of labour available for agricultural operations in the whole Division. The following table gives the average daily wages of field labourers in the neighbourhood of district headquarter towns (urban areas) and in more rural areas by Divisions and Economic Circles and for the Presidency with and without Sind for the years 1913, 1923 and 1924 :—

Divisions	Daily Average Wages in					
	1913		1923		1924	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 4 9	0 3 9	0 11 0	0 8 3	0 9 9	0 8 0
Central Division ..	0 5 0	0 4 3	0 9 0	0 6 3	0 9 0	0 7 6
Southern Division ..	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 8 6	0 6 3	0 8 9	0 6 0
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 4 6	0 3 9	0 10 9	0 8 3	0 9 3	0 8 0
Deccan Circle ..	0 4 6	0 4 0	0 8 3	0 6 0	0 8 6	0 6 6
Konkan Circle ..	0 5 3	0 4 6	0 11 3	0 9 0	0 11 3	0 9 3
Presidency Proper ..	0 4 9	0 4 0	0 9 6	0 7 0	0 9 3	0 7 3
Sind	0 7 9	0 8 0	0 12 6	0 14 9	0 14 3	0 15 9
Whole Presidency ..	0 4 9	0 4 3	0 9 6	0 7 3	0 9 3	0 7 6

Unskilled Labour.—Owing to extensive constructional work in almost all Districts in the Northern, Central and Southern Divisions the supply of casual labour in the Presidency proper was insufficient to meet the demand. The constructional work in connexion with the Security Printing Press and the Central Jail at Nasik was responsible for the partial diverting of the usual labour supply available in this district for employment in the railway workshops at Manmad, Nandgaon and Igatpuri; and in the Poona District the construction of the Bhatgar Dam gave employment to a considerable number of unskilled labourers at good rates of wages. Bombay City and the Bombay Suburban District attracted thousands of labourers from the Konkan and the Thana District and all immigrants found ready employment on the various schemes in connexion with the electrification of the G. I. P. and the B. B. & C. I. Railways, the duplication of the Tansa mains and the reclamation and development projects of the Bombay Municipality, the Improvement Trust and the Development Department. The City and the Port of Karachi were able to absorb all available manual labour and at times the supply was augmented by immigration from Cutch and other parts of Sind. The following table shows the daily average wages of unskilled labourers in district headquarter towns (urban areas) and in certain taluka towns, one in each district (rural areas) in the same manner as in the case of field labourers.

Divisions	Daily Average Wages in					
	1913		1923		1924	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 5 3	0 4 3	0 14 0	0 11 3	0 14 3	0 11 0
Central Division ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 10 3	0 6 6	0 9 9	0 8 0
Southern Division ..	0 5 9	0 4 9	0 10 3	0 7 9	0 10 6	0 7 6
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 5 3	0 4 0	0 13 3	0 11 0	0 13 9	0 11 0
Deccan Circle ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 10 0	0 6 3	0 9 9	0 7 6
Konkan Circle ..	0 6 3	0 5 3	0 13 0	0 10 6	0 13 0	0 9 9
Presidency Proper ..	0 5 9	0 4 6	0 11 3	0 8 0	0 11 3	0 8 9
Sind	0 8 0	0 7 3	0 15 9	0 11 9	0 15 6	0 12 0
Whole Presidency ..	0 6 3	0 5 3	0 12 6	0 9 0	0 12 3	0 9 6

Skilled Labour.—The wages of skilled labourers increased from five to twenty per cent. in several districts in the Presidency over the levels of



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the previous year. This increase was mainly due to a big demand for different types of skilled artisans for employment in building work and for general constructional work in connexion with various development schemes in reclamation, irrigation and the making of dams. In the Dharwar District masons and carpenters were masters of the labour situation and were able to dictate what terms they pleased. In West Khandesh skilled workers were not in as great demand outside the larger towns as in the previous year because the patils and gujars had little money to spend on building. The fire at Nandurbar caused a great demand for masons and carpenters, but the supply was not equal to the demand and at times skilled artisans, in many places, were unprocurable. A serious shortage of skilled labourers was also in evidence in the Poona District on account of the fact that the G. I. P. Railway employed as much of this class of labour as was available in connection with the building of the new Poona Station and the reconstruction of the sidings and yards. The following table shows the daily average wages of skilled labourers in the same way as in the two preceding tables :—

Divisions	Daily Average Wages in					
	1913		1923		1924	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 13 9	0 11 9	2 3 6	2 0 3	2 2 6	2 0 3
Central Division ..	0 13 0	0 10 6	1 7 0	0 15 3	1 9 6	1 0 9
Southern Division ..	0 10 9	0 9 9	1 2 0	1 0 0	1 3 6	0 15 6
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 13 6	0 11 9	2 2 3	2 0 3	2 1 3	2 0 3
Deccan Circle ..	0 11 9	0 10 0	1 4 9	0 14 9	1 6 6	0 15 3
Konkan Circle ..	0 13 9	0 11 3	1 12 0	1 9 9	1 14 6	1 9 6
Presidency Proper ..	0 12 6	0 10 9	1 9 3	1 5 0	1 10 6	1 5 3
Sind	1 4 6	1 2 0	2 3 9	1 11 0	2 8 6	1 13 9
Whole Presidency ..	0 13 9	0 11 9	1 11 0	1 6 0	1 12 9	1 6 6

The following chart illustrates the tendency referred to in the first paragraph of this article :—

FORESTS

For purposes of administration the Presidency has been divided into four Forest Circles, which are in charge of Conservators. The Chief Conservator is at the head of the Forest Department.

The Controlling Forest Staff has been divided into an Imperial Service and a Provincial Service. The Imperial Service now consists of one Chief Conservator, four Conservators and 30 Deputy and Assistant Conservators. The Provincial Forest Service consists of 25 officers, *viz.*, one Extra Deputy Conservator of Forests, 22 Extra Assistant Conservators and 2 Probationary Extra Assistant Conservators.

Forest administration is a branch of the general administration and the central authority in forest matters is the Commissioner of a Division, subject to the general orders of Government. The Chief Conservator is the local head of the Forest Department and the technical adviser of Government in forest matters. Forest Officers in charge of Circles have full powers in all professional operations of technical forestry; but in all other matters, such as those of rights and privileges of the people in forests, local supply of grass, grazing and fodder and generally as regards the relation of the department with the people, control vests in the local revenue officers and the forest officers are subordinate to them for these purposes. A Working Plans Division is maintained in each Circle and the duties of the working plans divisional officers are to ascertain the capabilities of the forests in the production of timber and other forest produce and to prepare scientific schemes for the exploitation of the forests so that they may be worked for the greatest benefit both of the State and the people. The work in connection with the preparation of working plans is generally well advanced, but revision of plans is carried on continuously. The classification of forests into forest proper, fuel and fodder, reserves and pastures has been completed in all Circles and the areas classed as pastures have been transferred to the Revenue Department for management.

The area under " Forests " in this Presidency is 15,000 square miles.

Taken as a whole the financial results of the year, showing a surplus of nearly 32½ lakhs, which has only been exceeded in two previous years (1916-17 and 1918-19) are a great improvement on those of recent years, and tend to show that the period of depression which started in 1920 is passing away. All four Circles are now in a sound financial position. It is particularly gratifying to note the steady development in the Central Circle, which at one time was looked on chiefly as a grazing ground, but which really contains most valuable stores of timber and fuel which are now being systematically worked for the first time.

There was no improvement in the timber trade during the year. The decrease in the volume of timber and fuel is due to some contractors not having been able to take out all materials from their coupes for want of labour and carts and to the slump in trade. The price per acre received for coupes in Surat and East Nasik and for Gurcharan coupes in the three Thana Divisions was higher during the year than in the previous year though the Thana forest coupes fetched slightly lower prices.

There were nearly 17,000 offences against the Forest Laws. Three hundred and fifty-six cases including 134 pending cases from the last year were decided during the year and of these 312 or 87·6 per cent. resulted in convictions, 13,976 cases were compounded and compensation amounting to Rs. 1,22,000 was recovered in 13,543 cases.

During the year the attachment of large consignments of sandalwood ready to be despatched from Belgaum District led to the discovery that systematic looting had been going on in the Belgaum Division for the last two or three years with the connivance of certain subordinates who took advantage of the lack of control consequent upon frequent changes of officers in charge of the Division. It was also found that irregular movement of sandalwood was facilitated by the indiscriminate issue of passes by Indian State officials and Inamdars and by the non-observance of transit rules by the Railway officials. Several prosecutions have been undertaken as a result of these disclosures. The policy of rewarding good fire-protection and enforcing communal punishment for bad protection was continued during the year.

Protection from cattle.—The forest areas open and closed to grazin were as follows :—

	Sq. miles.	Per cent.
Closed to all animals for the whole year ..	2,256	15·02
Closed to all animals for part of the year ..	249	1·66
Open to all animals except browsers for the whole year	9,053	60·28
Open to all animals for the whole year ..	3,455	23·01
	15,013	

In addition to the above certain kurans and closed areas in West Khandesh were temporarily thrown open to grazing owing to the late start of the rains. In the Southern Circle, sheep and goats of the Berad settlement at Dandeli were admitted to grazing on payment of the usual fees. In the Coast Division, as a measure conducive to greater content, goats were allowed in the area open to grazing near big towns like Bhatkal and Kumta under orders of the Collector of Kanara. In the Dharwar-Bijapur Division 20·10 square miles are set aside for sheep and goat grazing.

Nearly 2½ million cattle were admitted to grazing in the forest lands and about 1¼ million animals were impounded for unauthorised grazing in open and closed forest.

Rs. 5,64,000 were collected as grazing fees, the value of the grazing at full rates being Rs. 21,75,000.

Artificial regeneration on an intensive scale was introduced several years ago and after passing through a difficult experimental stage is now making good progress.

Exploitation.—During the year 6,605,000 cubic feet of timber and fuel were extracted departmentally together with sandalwood worth Rs. 75,661 and minor produce, grass, etc., to the value of Rs. 14,611.

The actual outturn of major and minor produce removed by consumers and purchasers during the year 1924-25 was :—

Major Produce

	Rs.
(1) *Timber*—4,081,000 cubic feet valued at ..	26,98,000
(2) *Fuel* —32,298,000 ,, ,, ,, ..	6,08,000

Minor Produce

	Rs.
(3) Bamboos—valued at	1,22,000
(4) Grass and Grazing—valued at	9,10,000
(5) Other minor produce—valued at	2,36,000
making a total for minor produce of ..	12,68,000

The outturn from all sources of forest produce during 1924-25 was :—

Timber	5,888,000
Fuel	43,777,000

The total expenditure on the management of State Forests was Rs. 16,67,000 against Rs. 19,18,000 in the previous year.

Industries.—Messrs. Kamat and Co., licensees for paper pulp manufacture from grass in Shirpur forests, have been carrying out experiments only during the year. A five years' contract for distillation of Rosha grass from the Rosha areas of the Central and Northern Circles was given out to the Essential Oils Syndicate of Dehra Dun for an annual royalty of Rs. 10,000. Considerable encouragement was given to local factories by the enhancement of the import duty on matches and a number of enquiries about indigenous woods was received. All possible help in the way of supplying information and samples for trial was given by the Department in the Northern, Central and Sind Circles.

Famine Grass Operations.—The scheme for storage of grass at Nawapur and other places in Khandesh was finally given up and no new grass was taken there during the year. The quantities taken during the season in Godhra and Palghar are 39 lakhs lbs. and 30½ lakhs lbs. respectively, no grass being taken at Dohad, as the sheds there were full with the stipulated quantity, namely 60 lakhs lbs. The quantities disposed of during the year were from Palghar 83,000 lbs. to famine-stricken districts, 19,85,000 lbs. old grass sold to contractors, 55,800 lbs. rejected old grass sold by auction, and from Godhra 5,000 lbs. sold to Charans working on the Public Works Department roads. The total quantity of grass in storage at the

end of the working season was 80·5 lakhs at Palghar, 86·5 lakhs at Godhra, 60 lakhs at Dohad, 147 lakhs at Nawapur and 25 lakhs at Khandbara.

The Engineering Branch did an immense amount of valuable work to standardise and systematise the more common engineering works required in the Forest Department, and is now engaged n so'ving the problem of reducing extraction and transport costs to a figure which will render it possible to exploit areas hitherto considered unworkable. " It is sometimes said," says the Chief Conservator of Forests in his annual report, " that development in the Bombay Forests is slow, and we have been urged to go in for big ambitious schemes and to advert'se our work more. It is now clear that it is a matter for sincere congratulation that we have refrained from anything of the sort and have been content with quiet and steady progress, which is now beginning to show good results."

There was again a fall in the traffic over the Alnavar-Dandeli Railway owing to shortage in the supply of waggons during the busy part of the fair season. This shortage adversely affects the prices of timber at Dandeli and the bamboo trade also suffers as bamboos rapidly deteriorate if left lying on the sidings for weeks together in the hot sun. The Railway was opened to passenger traffic during the year.

In this connection the Chief Conservator of Forests says, " The importance of good communications has often been dwelt upon in the past ; it is a truism to say that no forest property is a financial asset unless and until it is made accessible to the markets. Extraction by carts must remain for a long time to come the chief method of transport in this country, but the necessity for the gradual introduction of mechanical transport must not be lost sight of. Money invested now in opening up our forests by means of soundly constructed roads will be a sure source of profit in the future."

In order that the people of the Presidency might more easily understand the aims and purposes of the Bombay Forest Department, a small book was published during the year under Government auspices by Mr. W. E. Copleston, C.S.I., Chief Conservator of Forests. It is intended for those members of the general public who desire to know something of one of the Presidency's most valuable natural assets, the system which operates it, and the conditions that govern relations between the Forest Department and the cultivator.

To give effect to the recommendation conveyed in a resolution moved by Mr. D. R. Patil, M.L.C., and passed at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 30th July 1924, Government appointed a Committee to enquire into forest grievances. The Committee is empowered to visit important forests situated in the Presidency proper and to enquire into the grievances of the ryots with regard to forest matters and to submit suggestions for the consideration of Government. A preliminary meeting of the Committee was held at Bombay on 20th February 1925 at which it was

decided that the Chairman should circularise the M.L.Cs. of Forest Districts in the Presidency proper with a view to put such of their constituents as are interested in the objects of the Committee in touch with the Chairman. Copies of leaflets in English and also in the Vernaculars of the Districts were accordingly circulated through the M.L.Cs. with the result that a number of petitions have been received setting forth general and specific complaints with regard to forest matters. Two more meetings of the Committee were held at Poona after the year closed at which the lists of grievances were gone through and a rough tour programme was drawn up. The Committee intend to tour in areas where substantial grievances seem to exist.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Certain factors hampered the progress of the Co-operative Movement during the year under report. The late inundation in Sind and the subsequent heavy rains made the kharif season unfavourable. In the Presidency proper, the low price fetched by cotton and jaggery—the two most important money crops—hit the members of some of the well-developed societies hard. In spite of this, however, good progress was made in the expansion of the Movement. The number of societies showed an increase of 383 as against 120 and 210 during the previous two years. Previously attention had been devoted mainly to consolidation of work already done and to the improvement of existing societies than to the organization of new ones. The same policy had to be followed during the year in districts like Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Sholapur, where owing to various factors societies had not been doing well on the whole; but in other districts, especially in Dharwar and Khandesh, as also in Sind, there was a rapid increase in the number of societies which accounts mostly for the increase mentioned above. There was an increase of 35,000 in the number of members; while the working capital mounted up from Rs. 619 lakhs to Rs. 711 lakhs. On the whole, however, the progress made was not so much in numbers as in quality.

The principal work done in the year as regards agricultural societies consisted, first, in providing for necessary propaganda and for the training of managing committee and other members of societies; secondly, in making societies more business-like in their management; thirdly, in the provision of adequate finance; and, fourthly, in the co-ordination of the work of supervision. In addition to the Honorary Organizers and the Inspectors of the Central Banks, there are now several Unions which undertake the work of supervision. Twenty new Supervising Unions were started during the year, towards the expenses of management of which Government and Central Banks have agreed to contribute a certain portion during the initial stages. As regards the capital required the Central Banks find no difficulty in raising

sufficient funds to meet current demands; and they were, owing to the improved supervision, able to invest a far larger amount in the Movement itself than in the former year. The rates at which both the Provincial Bank and the Central Banks were able to raise their deposits compared favourably with the prevailing market rates. Amongst the districts Dharwar still retains the first place not only as regards the number of co-operative societies but as regards the variety of co-operative activities carried on there. Thirty per cent. of its population is now directly or indirectly connected with the Movement. In Broach 39 per cent. of the villages have a co-operative society and 16 per cent. of its population is affected by the Movement. In the canal areas of the Poona and Ahmednagar Districts, where a very large amount of capital has been invested for financing irrigated crops, matters were not as satisfactory as in the previous year as the cost of cultivation had increased while the price of jaggery fell down. In Khandesh, the Movement continues to expand at a fairly rapid rate, thanks to the facilities now afforded by the Branches of the Provincial Bank. In Sind, the year was one of increased activities and consequent expansion of the Movement. Whereas in 1918 there were only 65 societies in this tract, with 3,000 members and Rs. 1½ lakh working capital, at the end of last year there were 666 societies with 29,351 members and Rs. 72½ lakhs working capital. The success of this Movement in Sind is due to the co-operation between all classes, official and non-official, and also to the help which the Central Banks have been able to give in the very commencement.

A good many applications were received during the year for tagai out of the grant placed at the disposal of the Provincial Bank for this purpose by Government, and Rs. 1,70,000 were given out for various works of land improvement. A good beginning has also been made with regard to the preparation of Debt Redemption Schemes in some of the best societies in the Presidency. When these schemes are ready, it will be possible to take up this work and redeem members of some of the old and good societies of their previous debts.

In the case of non-credit societies special mention must be made of Cotton Sale Societies which considerably expanded their business, and also of the society for the sale of potatoes and vegetables at Malir. As regards co-operative supply the most important work was done by the Provincial Bank which supplied manure to members of societies in irrigated tracts in the Deccan.

The Bhil Societies in the Panch Mahals which gave some cause for anxiety during the first year showed decided improvement, and there is every reason to hope that the experiment will be a success.

The Provincial Bank has now a capital of nearly a crore of which nearly 23 lakhs is non-withdrawable. It has 11 Branches and is thus able to come in direct touch with the societies financed by it. The Bank engages

an efficient staff of Inspectors and has been able to help the societies, not merely by providing adequate finance but also by its supervision and by the arrangements which it has been able to make to supply agricultural requisites such as manure and implements and also to sell agricultural produce, chiefly jaggery. It holds now a very strong position and is able to invest most of its capital in the Co-operative Movement itself. In spite of the increased expenditure on inspection undertaken during the year, it was able to declare a good dividend and to carry a fair amount forward.

The progress of Co-operative Banking in urban areas also shows good progress. The number of urban societies is now 448 out of which 43 are Banks with a working capital of more than Rs. 50,000. Twenty-four of these are People's Banks of the Luzatti type which not only receive deposits and arrange for finance of their members but also do every kind of banking work. Some of these, like the Hubli Urban or the Surat People's, can compare favourably with similar banks existing in any other country. Twelve of the Urban Banks are communal banks members of which belong to a particular class of society; while seven are confined to persons following a particular kind of employment.

The Consumers' Movement did not show any appreciable progress in the year, although a few including the two railway societies of the B. B. & C. I. and G. I. P. Railways, and the two communal hostels in Bombay, showed some good work. Two of the College societies, *viz.*, the Sydenham College and the St. Xavier, have also shown appreciable progress.

Although Co-operative Housing did not show much progress in Bombay and its suburbs on account of certain difficulties due to slump in trade and the consequent lowering of rents, the movement is now extending to urban areas outside Bombay. Co-operative societies were organized in four new urban areas during the year. Their number is now 43 as against 37. The two societies in Dharwar have been able to put up a number of model buildings in healthy and pleasant areas in the outskirts of the Dharwar City. In Karachi little progress has so far been made as the question of allotment of land has not yet been settled.

Some of the Producers' Societies had a bad time owing to the increase in the prices of raw materials while the demand for the finished product diminished. There was consequently a lowering in the price of such articles. The Weavers' Societies were in this predicament as owing to several causes the prices of saris and other similar articles woven on the hand-loom went down considerably. The Copper and Brass Smiths' Societies had a similar experience. There is, however, little doubt that with improvement in the condition of trade these societies will again be able to work at a profit and show progress.

The Co-operative Institute continued to develop its activities. It arranged to convene several conferences including the Provincial

Conference. It also arranged for lectures and organized training classes both for secretaries and managing committee members. The work done as regards propaganda and training has been productive of much good. The Institute now has a Quarterly of its own in English as well as an English monthly magazine; while each of its Branches publishes a vernacular magazine. The Standing and Legal Committees of the Institute are taking an important part in the development of the co-operative movement and are consulted by the Registrar in various matters of importance. The Institute this year undertook also the work of organizing Supervising Unions and thus in the work of supervision. The important item in the Institute's work this year was the undertaking of the construction of the Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Memorial Building which cost nearly Rs. 2¾ lakhs. The subscriptions raised by the Memorial Committee have proved insufficient and the Institute had to borrow Rs. 2 lakhs from the Provincial Bank to meet the cost of the building. The building was finished only after the close of the year and is a valuable asset to the Institute. It is hoped that with additional subscriptions to the memorial building and the receipt of rents for the various floors of the building the Institute will be able to repay its loan within a reasonable time.

The Co-operative Bill which was introduced in the July session of last year and was referred to the Select Committee came up for its second reading in the September session but as a large number of amendments were received it was referred back to the Select Committee for further consideration. The Committee considered the various amendments and sent in its report, but further consideration of the Bill could be taken up only after the close of the year in the July session of 1925 when it was discussed and passed into law. The new Act which differs very little from the Bill as originally drafted, will be a land-mark in the history of the Co-operative Movement in this Presidency.

The attitude of the public towards the Movement has been very sympathetic. Men of all shades of political opinion are now within its fold and the movement is worked on purely non-party lines. The fact was well illustrated by the discussion of the Bill in the Legislative Council where members spoke and voted as they liked without making the bill a party question.

HORTICULTURE

PUBLIC GARDENS

Bombay Municipal Gardens.—Nine public gardens maintained by the Municipality were open to the public throughout the year and all possible care was taken to preserve their neatness and order. Park-keepers have been employed as an experimental measure for keeping off ruffians and badmashes and it is hoped that the experiment will prove successful.

The number of visitors to the Victoria Gardens during the year under report was 2,150,000 as against 2,234,000 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 84,000. The figure for the last year indicated an abnormal rise of about a lakh in that year on account of a large and unexpected influx of millhands during a strike period of about a month and a half. The band performances and the Indian musical concerts proved popular. The public demonstration of broadcast music given at the Victoria and the Sir Pherozeshah Mehta gardens attracted a large concourse of people and it is hoped that the proposed installation of special wireless apparatus at both these places will add to their amenities.

Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona.—These gardens are maintained by the Agri-Horticultural Society of Western India and are of an highly ornamental character.

The unusually changeable weather was on the whole unfavourable for garden operations. The cold wave which passed over Poona during the last week of January did considerable damage to vegetable crops and fruit trees. A plague of caterpillars also caused great destruction.

Annuals, in both main seasons, though late in coming to flower, gave a good display throughout the year. Phloxes and seedlings Dahlias showed a great variety of colour and form. Hyacinths (Hyacinthus candidus) were grown for the first time in the history of the gardens. Vegetables were cultivated on a smaller scale than usual. The mango crop brought a record price of Rs. 1,200.

The income realised from the sale of wedding and presentation bouquets (a speciality of these gardens), decorated baskets, wreaths, crosses and cut flowers, was less by Rs. 1,000 than last year. The income for the year at the Empress Garden was Rs. 26,900 and expenditure Rs. 26,000. The income includes Rs. 11,350 from the sale of plants, Rs. 4,500 from flowers, Rs. 5,200 from seeds, Rs. 2,450 from fruits and Rs. 400 from vegetables.

Bund Garden.—The Bund Garden retained its character as a display garden and a place of resort for residents of the City. The cost of maintaining it was Rs. 2,702 which was not covered by the sale-proceeds (Rs. 1,884). The deficit of Rs. 818 was met by the Empress Gardens.

CHAPTER VI

TRADE AND COMMERCE

INDUSTRIES

NORTHERN DIVISION.—In Ahmedabad 15 factories were added to the existing number (158) and one was struck off the register leaving 172 at the close of the year. Depression in the Mill industry continued. There was no important strike of mill-hands. Three serious accidents occurred in the mills causing the loss of 29 lives and injury to about 30 persons.

The Railway line from Dholka to Dhandhuka was opened for passenger and goods traffic early in 1925. It connects Gujarat with Kathiawar, traversing the Bhal region of the Dholka and Dhandhuka talukas of the Ahmedabad District, and the cotton and wheat trade of these talukas will benefit by its opening.

In Kaira, one of the two textile mills at Nadiad worked throughout the year. The Gins and Presses and the Rice and Flour Mills also functioned.

The line industry at Dohad in the Panch Mahals remained in a fairly prosperous condition, and the Shivrajpur and Bamankua Manganese Mines made steady progress.

In Broach there were three mill-strikes but a settlement was soon arrived at. The Ginning and Pressing factories in Broach worked for nearly three months during the cotton season ; a new gin was opened at Kareli by the Kareli Co-operative Society and a new press started work at Amod. The riverborne trade at the ports of Broach and Kavi showed some increase both in imports and exports.

Ginning factories in Surat worked satisfactorily. The local silk and embroidery industry functioned as usual.

In Thana the depression in trade continued and the Wadia Woollen Mill closed down and went into liquidation. Trade in timber and bricks was dull, owing to less building activity and the increasing use of reinforced concrete.

Central Division.—The cotton crop was, on the whole, fair in the districts of East Khandesh, West Khandesh, and Ahmednagar. In East Khandesh the outturn was smaller than expected, and in West Khandesh it was below the normal. Prices were lower than in the previous year. The two Spinning and Weaving mills at Jalgaon and Amalner did well on the whole. The New Laxmi Narayan Cloth Mill at Chalisgaon opened work from 27th May 1925. The new Handloom Kshatriya Spinning and Weaving Company started in Dharangaon is preparing Sarees and Khadi on a fly shuttle loom.

There were 52 Cotton Gins and 25 presses in West Khandesh and 14 ginning factories in the Nasik District.

As regards the cotton industry at Sholapur the Collector remarks :—

"The textile industry as a whole has been undergoing a period of depression since 1922 and matters have now gone from bad to worse. A crisis has now been reached in which the majority of mills in Bombay are faced with the possibility of either working at a loss or closing down altogether. The Local Mill Industry has naturally been affected by this state of affairs, but at this time it is distinctly superior to that in Bombay. Stocks of cloth and yarn with mills here are large but are mostly sold and not unwieldy, and though the future causes some anxiety and margins of profit are difficult to obtain, I see no reason for undue pessimism. The local industry has managed to keep its head above water in spite of the fact that the year under review opened with small margins of profit, slack demand and distinctly poor off-take. The accumulated unsold stocks of Bombay mills also created a feeling of insecurity and affected both the buyer and the seller. Prices since July 1924 have fallen approximately ; in cloth 19 per cent. and in yarn 25 per cent. This state of affairs is not likely to improve unless the Mills at large centres like Bombay and Ahmedabad work short time. Though the Bombay Mills have recently cut down the mill labourers' wages, the local mills have resolved not to take any such step here."

One more mill was constructed at Sholapur during the year under report and is working with electric power. Four more mills are in contemplation at Barsi and two out of them are already under construction. The fact that new mills are springing up in East Khandesh and Sholapur shows that the depression in the cotton mill industry experienced in Bombay and elsewhere has not materially affected the industry on this side.

The Belapur Sugar Company which has recently been put in possession of the whole area acquired commenced the manufacture of sugar on 31st August 1924. During the season which ended in May 1925 the factory produced 2,088 tons of sugar and 1,232 tons of molasses. The latter was almost entirely sold to the Government Distillery at Nasik.

In Bhimthadi Taluka of the Poona District there was an increase in the area under Sugarcane from 4,200 acres to 5,800 acres. The Nira Valley Sugar Factory had to be closed owing to the fall in the price of sugar brought on by heavy imports. The Hanuman Sugar Factory at Fursungi (Haveli Taluka) though working on a moderate scale is reported to be in a good condition.

Trade and industries in Poona City suffered to some extent owing to the depression in the money market. The demand for cloth and food grain was moderate. The brass, silk, thread and other factories, and the printing presses were busy as usual.

Nasik and Satara are mainly agricultural districts. A more favourable monsoon than that of the preceding year revived the trade in agricultural produce in the Satara District. Large quantities of jaggery, turmeric and groundnut from the Southern talukas, onions from Khandala Mahal, chillies from Khanapur and eggs from Mán and Javli were exported.

Among the smaller industrial works may be mentioned the iron works started by Messrs. Cooper Brothers at Satara Road Station and the Deccan Match Factory of Messrs. Chitale Brothers at Karad.

The town of Yeola (Nasik) is famous for its gold lace industry. The demand for its work was, however, slack owing to the partial failure of the cotton crop in Khandesh.

Handloom sarees and rough cotton cloth are woven in the West Khandesh District. The Collector Mr. Knight observes :—

> "My own impression based on my acquaintance with Malegaon in 1916 and 1919 is that the Momin Weaver class in Dhulia at any rate is doing better than it used to and is fairly successfully competing with power machinery."

The minor handloom industries produced carpets, rough blankets and sarees in the talukas of Junnar, Purandhar and Indapur valued roughly at 2 lakhs of rupees. The Carpet Factory at Kunhe (Mawal Taluka) was in good condition.

The country oil mills in the Bhimthadi Taluka (Poona) had on the whole a busy year. The oil mill at Dhond turned out oil worth Rs. 20,500 and cake valued at Rs. 57,000.

The American Mission at Ahmednagar discontinued their carpet and handloom industries a year ago for want of demand. The other branches—metal factory and carpentry department—remained at work. The Automobile and electric departments continued to expand.

The trade in timber in Nandurbar, Navapur and Taloda talukas did a big business.

The Tannery at Wanowri (Poona) exported leather and hides in large quantities.

The Glass Factory at Talegaon Dabhade worked satisfactorily. It has now commenced to manufacture earthenwares. The Ravivarma Press at Karla and the Tikekar Textile Factory and metal works at Tikekarwadi near Sholapur made good progress.

Southern Division.—The cotton ginning and pressing factories in Belgaum worked well. Adverse winds in December damaged the cotton crop in Bijapur and caused a depression in trade. In Dharwar the cotton trade suffered on account of partial failure of the crop and a serious boycott of dalals in Gadag. Four new ginning factories were started in Dharwar (2 in Ranebennur Taluka and 2 in Bankapur Taluka).

Jowari and wheat trade in Bijapur was adversely affected by the bad season. The timber market in Kanara continued dull but the betelnut,

cardamom and pepper trade was brisk. The rice and fish trade in Kolaba did well.

There was a slump everywhere in handspinning. Airani 'Kamblis' in Dharwar are finding a good market, as also the saris of Ilkal and khans of Guledgud. Saris, dhotis, carpets, etc., are manufactured by the Criminal Tribes Settlers in Bijapur; the prices are reasonable, but the finish is poor as the industry is still in its infancy. The hand weaving industry in Belgaum was slack on account of the fall in prices of weaving materials. The Gokak Falls Mills did well.

The tile factories at Khanapur (Belgaum), Mora (Uran in Kolaba), Malvan (Ratnagiri) and Manaki (Kanara) had a good season and so did the bangle industry at Ghodgeri. The building stones of Badami and lime stones of Bagalkot were in much demand. The mango pulp factory at Ankola produced 26,200 tins of pulp against 100,000 tins in the previous year. The copper and brass pot industries at Alibag and Roha and the cartwheel industry at Panvel had a good year. The Vizayadurga button factory (Ratnagiri) did well, the value of the outturn being Rs. 62,000 against Rs. 44,000 in the preceding year. The Sanikatta (Kanara) Salt Works turned out 2½ lakhs maunds of salt. Of the two nib factories at Malvan one was closed and the other turned out nibs worth about Rs. 33,000.

The Tata Company continued to supply electrical energy from their power houses to mills in Bombay. Extension of their lines is still in progress. Licenses under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, have been given for Gadag, Hubli and Panvel and proposals received for electrification of the towns of Dharwar, Bijapur and Belgaum.

Public motor services were largely on the increase. About 100 motor cars are plying in Belgaum on almost all the main roads to the great convenience of the people.

Sind.—Local Industries and manufactures showed small sign of progress, and the conditions of nearly all of them is either stagnant or precarious. The rice husking factories did well and a few new ones started in the Hyderabad, Larkana and Karachi districts. The wheat grinding mills also worked fairly well while the oil and sugarcane-pressing industries were stated to be thriving, though still backward compared with other parts of India. The cotton ginning factories were not fully employed. Of the eight factories in the Thar Parkar district, three did not work: two owing to the deaths of the proprietor and disputes among his heirs. The factory at Bhiria Road in the Nawabshah District which had been closed for some years was re-opened.

The cloth weaving industry lost ground owing to the preference of the people for mill made cloth of finer finish. The silk spinning and weaving factory at Larkana worked at a loss. The handloom industry at Larkana is doing moderately well under the patronage of the Local Co-operative

Society. The coarse woollen cloth industry maintains its position. Enthusiasm for the spinning wheel has practically disappeared, and hand made khadi has lost its popularity.

The dyeing industry did well and the leather tannery at Pano Akil showed signs of improvement. The lacquer industry at Kashmore in the Upper Sind Frontier district is declining. The tile factory started at Budhapur and the factory for sulphuric acid opened at Kotri in the Karachi district last year were closed. Other minor industries such as those connected with earthenware, Pan grass, metal work and soap continued in their previous somewhat elementary condition.

The development of the country depends very largely on the Co-operative movement. It made considerable advance in the year, and its credit side was increasingly popular. A Co-operative Central Bank and a Zamindari Bank were opened in the Thar Parkar District. The adaptation of the movement to the needs and to the financial conditions of the zamindars is a matter of primary importance for that class in particular and for the agricultural progress of the whole Province.

Bombay Suburban Division.—The advantageous situation of Salsette in close proximity of Bombay has been of immense help to its industrial prosperity. All the old factories such as the two large textile mills at Kurla and Ghatkoper, the steel pipes manufacture at Mulund, the several match factories at Ghatkoper, Kurla, Bandivli and Vile Parle, the dyeing factories at Chembur, Kurla, Vikhroli and Hariali, the Aluminium factory and silver pots factory of Vile Parle and the various other factories in the district had a good year. Besides the milch-cattle stables, the sea-fishery has also developed into a thriving industry of much importance.

The building trade however with the dependent industries of lime extraction, quarrying, brick-making and timber-import, continued to be depressed during the year under report, in spite of the large facilities which the Malad quarries and the lime-stones of Marve, Gorai and Malavni afford. Most of the stone from these valuable quarries was exported to Bombay.

A special feature was the establishment of Railway connection between Chembur and Kurla. The construction of a Tram-line between Andheri and Kurla and thence to Anik is in progress, the completion of which would undoubtedly mean additional facilities for industrial concerns. The plying of heavy motor lorries and the issue of road-permits have been ever on the increase indicating good business traffic, competing favourably with the two Railway lines.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

As already reported last year, the post of Director was abolished as a result of the vote of the Legislative Council in March 1924. Thereafter

some of his activities were carried on by the Assistant Director under the designation of Superintendent of Industries. The post of Director was, however, revived in July 1925. The activities of the Department were :—

(1) Supply of commercial intelligence to private enterprises.
(2) Professional or technical advice and assistance to minor industries.
(3) Demonstration in cottage industries, especially in weaving.

The unusual depression in trade continued throughout the year but owing to the rise in the exchange and fall in the prices of machinery four cotton spinning and weaving mills were projected at Barsi and one at Sholapur. The New Oil Mills, Bombay, the largest of its kind in the Presidency, stopped working owing to financial stringency, and the oil mill industry, like the textile industry, did not show signs of extensive development. The report contains information regarding some of the new industrial ventures.

Two large works have lately been established in the Presidency, one at Satara and the other at Bombay, for manufacturing machinery suitable for agriculture and small industries.

There are now 14 match factories in this Presidency, seven of which have been established in the suburbs of Bombay with an approximate total output estimated at 30 to 40 lakhs gross boxes annually. Three or four factories use indigenous wood but the remainder import and use match wood splints from foreign countries. The imported wood in 1924-25 was valued at Rs. 4,38,000.

The Director of Industries visited several places in the districts to give technical advice and a large number of people called and consulted him on industrial and technical matters. Various enquiries by post were also answered. Some of these related to selection of power plants for new factories, the layout of machinery, defects in machinery, water softening plant, pumping water, scheme for a technical school for Mahomedans, reorganisation and layout of the workshops at a technical school, etc.

State Aid to Industries.—Four applications were received during the year requesting financial help from Government through the Department. One application was from a very large industrial concern asking for a loan of several lakhs of rupees and offering their whole property as a mortgage to Government, but as the industry that was carried on by the concern was not a nascent one and as the concern could have easily secured a loan from a bank or private financier nothing could be done in the matter. The applications of two other firms could not be considered as they were not willing to offer their property by way of security while the fourth application is still under consideration. A loan of Rs. 15,000 was sanctioned to an industrial concern in Surat in 1923.

The hand-loom industry is expanding. The Department is paying particular attention to helping and reviving this industry by demonstrations and by the introduction of improved methods of hand weaving. There

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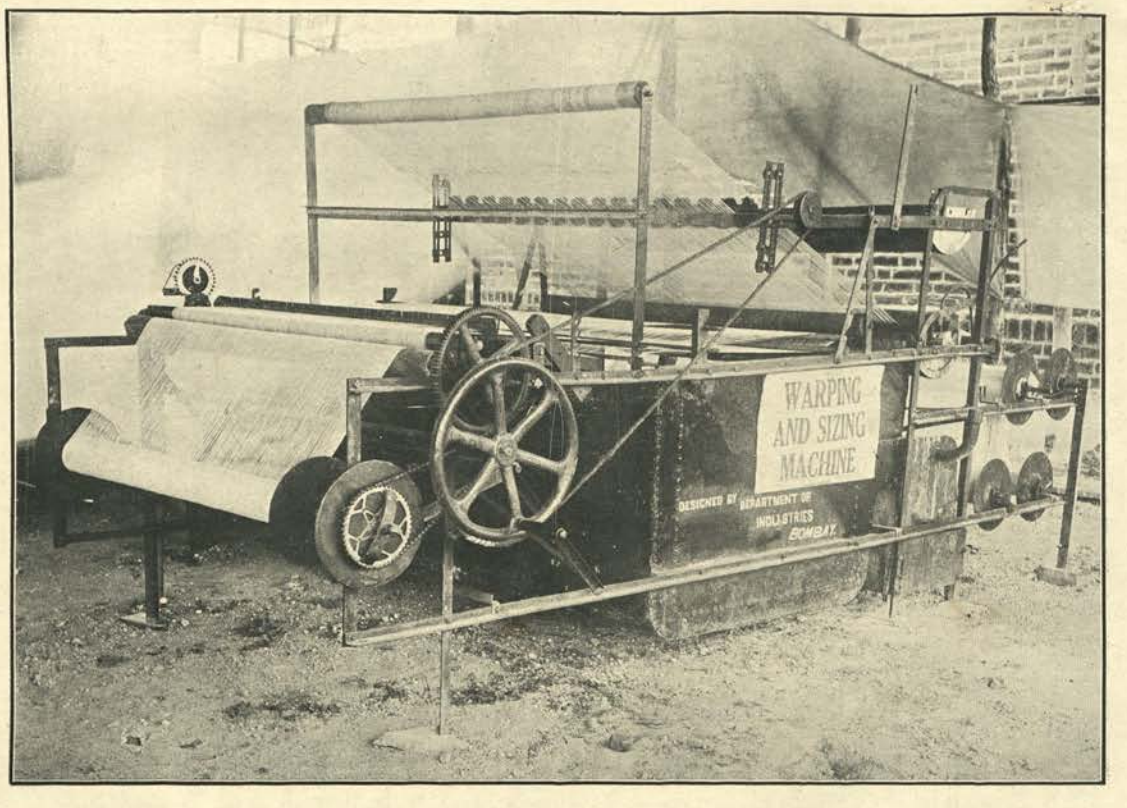


Large Hand Sizing Machine (suitable for a hand-loom factory).

[*To face Page 100*

were in all five schools engaged in demonstrating fly-shuttle looms. They were at Parola (East Khandesh), Pathardi (Ahmednagar), Bijapur, Betgiri (Dharwar) and Sinnar (Nasik). The Sinnar school was transferred to Vinchur in November 1924. The number of fly-shuttle looms introduced numbered 580.

At the suggestion of the Provincial Board of Agriculture the experiment of training agriculturists to take up weaving as a spare time occupation was carried on in Hoshalli (Dharwar district) till April 1925. After having introduced about a dozen hand-looms amongst the agriculturists there, the school was transferred to Bonkanhalli (Belgaum district) on the Agricultural Farm of Mr. V. S. Phaterpekar. There are eight looms working in the school and pupils—agriculturists only—from surrounding villages attend the school. They are taught to weave plain cloth such as gudar, khadi, dhoti, shirting, etc.

As regards Gujarat, three schools were opened at Surat, Broach and Bulsar and demonstrations given at three different centres.

THE FACTORIES ACT

The number of factories that actually worked was 1,211 as compared with 1,120 in the preceding year. Of the 1,211 working factories 627 are perennial and 584 seasonal, 215 of the perennial and 507 of the seasonal factories being connected with the cotton industry. 134 factories remained closed throughout the year.

The number of operatives employed was 354,853 as against 356,480 during the preceding year, the cause of the decrease being trade depression throughout the Presidency. The match industry showed an increase of nearly 3,000 persons.

Sanitation in factories received increased attention from the full time staff, the Certifying Surgeons in Bombay and Ahmedabad and also the Assistant Directors of Public Health. In Ahmedabad, most factories made an effort towards improvement but constant vigilance was necessary to maintain a decent standard. Ahmedabad's chief need however is an extension of the sewage system so that mills could change over to a water-borne disposal. An extension of the system would also provide for the satisfactory disposal of bleaching and dyeing effluent which is becoming a problem to many Ahmedabad mills owing to developments in the bleaching and dyeing of cloth. In Karachi, complaints have been made by factories of the deficient flushing supply provided by the Municipality.

An attempt is being made to improve the hand service latrines common in mofussil areas by their erection on standard lines. Several ginning factories have agreed to rebuild whilst new mills are also installing latrines according to plans found successful in Bengal.

Ventilation received increased attention and it is satisfactory to note that an increased interest is being taken by the managers in internal atmospheric conditions. A number of Kata thermometers have been obtained and the use of this instrument and its valve as a "comfort-meter" is gradually being extended and recognised.

Credit must be given to the agents of the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Company for making great progress in this matter. During the year under report the hottest portion of the spinning mills controlled by this company was equipped with a ventilating and humidifying plant. This plant is capable of dealing with some 150,000 cubic feet of air per minute and effecting an air-change in the spinning room every 2½ minutes. The air is drawn through a specially designed spray chamber where it is cooled, humidified and purified and then blown through large distributing trunks into the room. An automatic humidity control is also provided.

Advance has also been made in other concerns, notably in match factories, whilst other problems mainly connected with dust removal received equal attention.

There was a considerable reduction in the number of children employed. The main reason for this was the extreme care taken by the certifying surgeon in Ahmedabad. As a result of his efforts, double employment of children with two certificates was considerably reduced. The total number of children working in factories was 9,779 as against 11,411 during the preceding year. Children employed in Ahmedabad mills have been reduced from 6,925 in 1922 to 5,712 in 1923 and to 3,750 in 1924. More stringent measures are proposed to be taken in order to cut down this figure to a minimum.

There were 2,606 accidents during the year. Two were of a very serious type and caused 38 deaths. An analysis of the accidents reported by a large railway works was made with a view to ascertaining the possibilities of a safety first movement. Out of 746 reported accidents only 53 were caused by machinery in motion. The balance was chiefly made up of 86 due to flying metals, 200 to falling objects and 135 to hand tools. Burns accounted for 34 accidents and 29 were due to falling. The report states that Ahmedabad showed a considerable increase in accidents and as this has been accompanied by an undoubted improved standard in the guarding of machinery, the cause may be attributed to improved reporting.

Improved reporting was also responsible for an increased number of accidents being brought to light in Bombay. In all 43 accidents caused 82 deaths.

Housing of Factory Hands.—The activities of Government in the Development Department are well known and do not need special comment. Housing developments have suffered in the general depression but activities have not been totally curtailed. Thus six Ahmedabad mills erected 204 rooms while mention is necessary of the progress made by the

Colaba and David Mills in Bombay and the Narsinggirji Mill at Sholapur. Some 230 rooms were built by the former Company during recent years, a defective three storied chawl is being demolished, and rebuilding with the elimination of former defects is in progress. Valuable land is being sacrificed to erect on the single story system rather than on the chawl system. The David Mills recently completed 255 rooms, well ventilated and provided with washing and kitchen accommodation, whilst the Narsinggirji Mill, Sholapur, completed a housing scheme on the most approved lines designed by the Consulting Surveyor to Government. Over two hundred rooms in separate blocks with ample spaces between were built and the whole scheme deserves special mention especially as the rent charged is probably only a moiety of the economic rent. The general supervision of this scheme is in the hands of the Doctor in charge of the hospital financed by this mill. The poor housing facilities provided for temporary labour in ginning and pressing factories have been remarked on by the Assistant Directors of Public Health in the Western Division and Sind. In several cases improvements could be effected at slight cost and although housing can hardly be considered a direct charge on factories, yet more could be done in the factories concerned where the labour is often obtained from a distance and is usually extremely poor. Several suggestions made by the Assistant Directors of Public Health will probably be given effect to and will result in improved health and less absenteeism.

Welfare Work.—The best test for welfare work is to gauge the activities in a period of depression. Possibly the amount of welfare work done in factories is less than a year ago but factories as a whole have maintained their former interest and there have been notable advances. Mention was made in last year's report of the amount of welfare work carried on in the Sholapur mills. There has been no diminution at this centre, while the building of an invalids' home by one of the mills has been nearly completed. The creches at the mills have been or are being improved and it is possible to hold up some of them as examples of what creches should be.

A disastrous fire occurred in a Khandesh Pressing Factory in which twelve women lost their lives whilst ten others were more or less severely injured. It is the first serious fire that has occurred in cotton pressing factories since 1912 and recalls the serious and fatal fires characteristic of some fifteen years ago.

One thousand one hundred and eighty-four of the factory children in Ahmedabad receive education. Factory schools in the Bombay mills have almost ceased to exist but no mill employs a large number of children. In Sholapur most children attend factory schools and one mill is equipping a technical school for further instruction.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, came into force during the year. Prior to its introduction Inspectors were instrumental in obtaining compensation and light work for relatives of deceased workmen and

injured persons respectively. In two cases resulting in death where there was no breach of any legal provision but where the deaths resulted from disobedience by subordinates of managerial orders, part of the compensation was paid by the subordinates responsible. In some of the mofussil factories, Inspectors' visits brought the first knowledge of the Act to the owners.

During the year 2,773 boilers were inspected and certified by the Boiler Inspection Department. The number of observations of chimneys taken and visits paid to factories by the officers of the Smoke Nuisances Department was 4,960 and 4,693 respectively, showing a very considerable increase in the year under report. In Bombay and the other areas to which the Act has been applied the emission of dense black smoke has been prohibited.

SEA-BORNE TRADE

The outstanding feature of the year was the unprecedented flow of the precious metals into Bombay. Gold in particular poured in as inevitably as it poured into Danae's tower. With a balance of trade in merchandise more than Rs. 155 crores in her favour, India was certain to absorb large quantities of bullion, despite Government's very considerable remittances amounting to about Rs. 57 crores in the shape of Council bills, purchases of sterling and the like. Over and above this the Indian bullion market and consumer could not fail to be attracted by the price of gold falling below its pre-war level, as a result of the appreciation of sterling almost to its gold parity and the appreciation of the rupee in terms of sterling. The total value of Bombay's imports of gold and silver on private account left all previous records far behind, and actually amounted to Rs. 94½ crores, a figure over Rs. 36 crores higher than the record established in 1922-23. The actual quantity of gold imported was over 11,727,000 fine ounces, valued at Rs. 72⅓ crores, and imports of silver exceeded Rs. 22 crores in value. Little of the gold was re-exported, but Rs. 3⅔ crores worth of silver was shipped from Bombay. Thus the value of the retained imports was little short of Rs. 90½ crores.

This glut of treasure was bound to react in some measure on Bombay's trade in merchandise. Bombay is India's bullion market and imports bullion for the whole of India. Hence Bombay was so pre-occupied in buying its favourite commodity—gold—at attractive prices that its attention was partly diverted from ordinary merchandise. Consequently the port's trade in merchandise declined in value, despite the fact that the trade of all the other provinces, especially Bengal and Sind, expanded. But if Bombay's trade be analysed, it will be found to be much more satisfactory than appears at first sight. The decline of Rs. 1·21 crore under imports is accounted for more than four times over by poor receipts of machinery and millwork and of railway plant and rolling stock. Naturally little new

machinery could be expected to arrive when the cotton spinning and weaving industry in Bombay, as in other parts of the world, was suffering from severe depression, and the decline in railway stores was largely due to a change in policy whereby smaller stocks are maintained. Iron and steel receipts fell slightly in volume but by Rs. 54 lakhs in value. British shipments contracted by 37,000 tons, but low-priced Continental products were in no way checked by the measure of protection granted by the legislature to the Indian industry. On the other hand there was a clear consumptive demand for many imported commodities. Thus imports of sugar expanded by 55,000 tons and attained a value of Rs. 5·39 crores ; manufactures of cotton advanced by Rs. 94 lakhs, cotton twist and yarn by Rs. 66 lakhs, woollen manufactures by Rs. 55 lakhs, and artificial silk by Rs. 51½ lakhs. Imports of real silk piecegoods increased in volume, but their value declined owing to a fall in the price level. Record arrivals of raw cotton, mostly from Africa, are also worthy of remark ; their value advanced from Rs. 2·46 to Rs. 4·24 crores. But it is not enough to consider values only ; prices must also be taken into account before the volume of trade can be estimated. A reference to paragraphs 49 to 51 of the Report on the Sea-borne Trade will show that the prices of imported commodities have generally fallen, and that a decrease in value has actually been accompanied by an increase in volume.

The export trade in merchandise has also done much better than a decline of Rs. 6¾ crores in value would indicate. This decline was solely due to the fact that shipments of raw Indian cotton fell from the previous year's record figure of 545,000 tons to 422,000 tons. The value declined from Rs. 76½ to Rs. 63¼ crores. The reason is not far to seek ; at long last 1924 witnessed a large American crop, and both Europe and Japan needed and took less Indian cotton. Further the Indian 1924 crop, though large, was late. Consequently the export season started late and was less advanced than usual when the fiscal year ended. Apart from cotton there was a distinct and well-distributed improvement. In particular seeds expanded in value by Rs. 2½ crores, raw wool by Rs. 98½ lakhs, and grain, pulse and flour by Rs. 90 lakhs. There was a welcome expansion of 16¾ million yards in the exports of Indian cotton piecegoods, and the value rose from Rs. 4·27 to Rs. 4·62 crores. Exports of Indian cotton yarn declined in quantity but rose in value. The explanation is that though Bombay has lost her China market, she is pushing sales nearer home in Persia, Arabia and Syria, countries which seem to prefer less coarse counts than China and to be willing to pay for them.

There were no very striking changes in the direction of Bombay's trade. The share of the United Kingdom again declined, but that of the Empire as a whole hardly changed. Shipments to Continental Europe were lower, but imports thence improved. Japan's share remained constant, and is second only to the United Kingdom's.

The total trade of the Bombay Presidency was 367 crores of rupees, 30½ crores more than in the previous year. These figures were made up as follows:—

Foreign Trade (private)—

Imports—182 crores 47 lakhs, an increase of 46 crores;

Exports—112 crores 82 lakhs, a decrease of 5 crores 9 lakhs;

a total foreign trade of 295 crores 29 lakhs, showing a gain of 40 crores 90 lakhs.

Coasting Trade (private)—

Imports—34 crores 51 lakhs, a decrease of 6 crores 29 lakhs;

Exports—34 crores 89 lakhs, a decrease of 3 crores 87 lakhs;

giving a total coasting trade of 69 crores 41 lakhs, a net decrease of 10 crores 17 lakhs.

Adding to this figure Government transactions amounting to 2 crores 21 lakhs the total sea-borne trade amounted to 366 crores 92 lakhs, an increase of 30 crores 43 lakhs.

The gross revenue collected by the Bombay Custom House expanded from Rs. 11 crores 79 lakhs to Rs. 13 crores 14 lakhs.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE PORTS OF BOMBAY AND KARACHI

The following table shows the value to the nearest lakh of the Foreign Import and Export trade of the ports of Bombay and Karachi grouped according to classes shown in Government accounts:—

Imports		Increase or decrease in 1924-25
BOMBAY	Lakhs	Lakhs
Food, drink and tobacco	1,023	+ 98
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,169	+ 140
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	6,382	— 315
Living animals	23	+ 9
Postal articles not specified	140	— 53
Total ..	**8,737**	— **121**
KARACHI		
Food, drink and tobacco	746	+ 259
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	145	+ 14

	Lakhs	Increase or decrease in 1924-25 Lakhs
KARACHI—*contd.*		
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	2,097	+ 564
Living animals	..	..
Postal articles not specified	45	+ 32
Total ..	**3,033**	+ **869**

Exports

BOMBAY

Indian Produce and Manufacture

Food, drink and tobacco	397	+ 97
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	8,190	— 950
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	1,151	+ 98
Postal articles	120	+ 6
Total ..	**9,858**	— **749**

KARACHI

Indian Produce and Manufacture

Food, drink and tobacco	2,419	+ 1,133
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	2,772	+ 371
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	31	— 2
Living animals	¼	— ¼
Postal articles	5	+ 1
Total ..	**5,227¼**	+ **1,502¾**

BOMBAY

Foreign Merchandise

Food, drink and tobacco	111	— 5
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	438	+ 136
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	423	— 60
Living animals	6	+ 4
Postal articles	12	+ 1
Total ..	**990**	+ **76**

		Increase or decrease in 1924-25
	Lakhs	Lakhs
KARACHI		
Foreign Merchandise		
Food, drink and tobacco	34	— 24
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured	97	+ 13
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	110	+ 8
Articles re-exported by post	..	..
Total ..	241	— 3

Total Exports, Bombay—10,851 lakhs, a decrease of 673 lakhs.
Total Exports, Karachi—5,468 lakhs, an increase of 1,500 lakhs.

CHIEF PORT—BOMBAY.

Practically the whole of the foreign trade of the Presidency proper is carried on through its chief port—Bombay. The port's private trade reached the record figure of over Rs. 295 crores, and was higher than Calcutta's figure by about Rs. 64½ crores. This was of course due to the huge arrivals of treasure. If treasure be excluded, Bombay's foreign trade declined by nearly Rs. 8 crores or 4 per cent. to Rs. 196 crores, while the foreign trade of Calcutta advanced further by nearly Rs. 26 crores or 13 per cent. to Rs. 229 crores and that of Karachi by Rs. 24 crores or 38 per cent. to Rs. 85 crores. Imports of merchandise into Bombay fell in value by 1 per cent. but those into Calcutta and Karachi rose by 10 per cent. and 40 per cent. respectively. Machinery and millwork, railway plant and rolling stock, postal articles not specified, and precious stones and pearls, unset, were chiefly responsible for the decrease in Bombay, while cotton manufactures, metals and ores and sugar largely account for the increase in Calcutta and cotton manufactures and sugar in Karachi. On the other hand cotton manufactures, sugar, cotton twist and yarn, raw cotton and wool manufactures advanced at Bombay, and there were smaller arrivals of machinery and millwork and railway plant and rolling stock in Calcutta.

Exports of Indian produce also declined by Rs. 7 crores or 7 per cent. to Rs. 99 crores at Bombay, but advanced by Rs. 18 crores or 15 per cent. to Rs. 141 crores at Calcutta and by Rs. 15 crores or 41 per cent. to Rs. 52 crores at Karachi. Raw cotton was entirely responsible for the decrease at Bombay, while raw jute and its manufactures have contributed to the increase at Calcutta, and raw cotton and grain, pulse and flour at Karachi.

The total value of the private coasting trade excluding treasure declined again by Rs. 10·47 crores to Rs. 61·32 crores, as both imports and exports were down. The principal articles imported were raw cotton and rice, both of which recorded decreases. All the chief exports, cotton piecegoods, twist and yarn and grain, pulse and flour, also declined.

FOREIGN TRADE

IMPORTS

The details of trade in the most important articles are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

Coal.—Imports of foreign coal again decreased by 86,000 tons to 289,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 26·26 lakhs to Rs. 77·52 lakhs in value owing to smaller shipments from Natal, Portuguese, East Africa and Australia. Arrivals from the United Kingdom and Japan increased. The decrease in foreign coal is no doubt partly due to the growing use of fuel oils by steamers, railways and industrial concerns, and to some extent to Bengal's efforts to re-capture the Bombay coal market. Shipments of Bengal coal further advanced by 51,000 tons to 177,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 8 lakhs to Rs. 42·81 lakhs in value.

Dyeing and tanning substances.—The total value of imports under this head declined by Rs. 6·79 lakhs to Rs. 2·18 crores owing mainly to smaller supplies of alizarine from the United Kingdom, aniline from Germany and saffron from France. Germany has consolidated her regained pre-eminence, her share in the total imports having risen from 68 to 74 per cent. Alizarine and aniline dyes are the two most important articles under this head. Imports of alizarine increased further by over a million pounds in quantity and by Rs. 2·09 lakhs in value owing to larger supplies from Germany and Belgium. Arrivals from the United Kingdom showed a large falling off. Imports of aniline, on the other hand, declined by 452,000 lb. to 9 million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 5·78 lakhs to Rs. 1·65 crore in value owing to smaller supplies from all the principal countries except Belgium and Italy.

Hardware.—This head covers a large variety of miscellaneous articles such as agricultural implements, other implements and tools, builder's hardware, domestic hardware, enamelled ironware, lamps, safes, stoves, etc. The value of the imports advanced slightly by Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 1·69 crore, owing chiefly to larger supplies from Germany, whence came goods worth Rs. 57·1 lakhs, or an advance of Rs. 14·99 lakhs. Despatches from the United Kingdom receded by Rs. 16·79 lakhs to Rs. 54·85 lakhs. Germany thus wrested first place from the United Kingdom with a share in the total imports which rose from 26 to 34 per cent. The United Kingdom's share fell from 44 to 32 per cent.

Machinery and Millwork.—There was a further drop in the total value of imports under this head from Rs. 8·44 crores to Rs. 5·45 crores, owing mainly to the very restricted demand for textile machinery, imports of which alone declined by Rs. 2·41 crores to Rs. 2·18 crores. The largest imports are from the United Kingdom, but her share in the total imports fell from 89·5 per cent. to 86·6 per cent.

Matches.—Imports of matches declined for the third year in succession. The fall in the year under review was striking, being from 4,878,000 to 2,411,000 gross of boxes in quantity and from Rs. 53·21 to Rs. 24·13 lakhs in value. The two chief sources of supply, Sweden and Japan, shipped smaller quantities both of safety and other sorts. Sweden is still the largest supplier of both qualities, her share in the total imports having risen from 55 to 59 per cent., while that of Japan has fallen from 41 to 29 per cent. The high rate of duty has undoubtedly affected imports materially.

Metals and Ores.—British imports of iron and steel into Bombay fell by nearly 37,000 tons to 148,000 tons, while Belgium imports rose by 22,000 tons to 99,000 tons. Germany also increased her despatches by 6,000, Luxemburg by 2,000 and Sweden by 1,000 tons. Nevertheless there was a drop of 6,000 tons in the total imports. Indian steel producers were hit as hardly as the British. They were granted protection by the Steel Industry Protection Act which came into force from the 13th June 1924. The protective duties brought in a substantial revenue, but it was soon apparent that the benefits intended to be accorded by the Act to the Indian industry were being nullified by the low prices of imported Continental steel. As a result of a further investigation of the position by the Indian Tariff Board, additional aid was granted to the Indian industry in the shape of bounties.

There was a substantial improvement in brass and copper, imports of the former having risen by Rs. 32·4 lakhs to Rs. 1·63 crore and of the latter by Rs. 7·38 lakhs to Rs. 1·02 crore. The improvement under brass was due to larger shipments of yellow metal for sheathing and other sorts from Germany. Under copper imports of braziers and sheets from Germany improved further by Rs. 29·79 lakhs but those from the United Kingdom declined by Rs. 19·21 lakhs.

Motor cars and Motor cycles.—Imports of motor cars again improved in number by 1,256 to 3,587 and in value by Rs. 16·99 lakhs to Rs. 89·28 lakhs. Arrivals from the United States of America showed little change at 579, but Canadian cars advanced in number from 1,127 to 1,907. The United Kingdom, however, continued to do well, sending to Bombay 746 cars as against 424 in the year before and 214 in the year before that. Moreover, the 746 cars she sent actually exceeded in value the 1,907 cars from Canada. Imports of motor cycles increased by 69 to 313 in number owing to larger arrivals from the United Kingdom and America,

but the great bulk of the trade remained British. Arrivals of commercial vehicles also rose by 420 to 697 in number and by Rs. 4·49 lakhs to Rs. 12·94 lakhs in value.

Oils.—The total imports of mineral oils from foreign countries, which amounted to nearly 81¾ million gallons, exceeded the preceding year's record figure by more than 8¼ million gallons, owing chiefly to larger arrivals of fuel oils from Persia. This increase, however, was offset by a fall of nearly 8½ million gallons in the arrivals from Burma.

Imports of kerosene from foreign countries declined by 388,000 gallons as a result of smaller receipts in tins from the United States of America and the cessation of imports from the Celebes and other Islands. Arrivals in bulk increased by 849,000 gallons owing to larger importations from the United States of America. Imports from Burma fell away by nearly 7 million gallons. Imports of fuel oils rose by 7½ million gallons to a new record of 60 million gallons, owing to larger arrivals from Persia, which sent 94 per cent. of the total imports. Imports of lubricating oils from foreign countries increased by 913,000 gallons to nearly 3½ million gallons in quantity and by Rs. 10·61 lakhs to Rs. 56·75 lakhs in value owing to larger supplies from the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Imports from Burma have also advanced further by 61,000 gallons to 765,000 gallons.

Postal Articles not specified.—This head includes all articles imported by parcel post except the five specified articles, *viz.*, (*a*) jewellery, (*b*) precious stones, (*c*) gold and silver thread, (*d*) cigarettes, and (*e*) cinematograph films which are included under their appropriate heads in the general imports. The total value of postal articles not specified decreased further by Rs. 52·7 lakhs to Rs. 1·4 crore, of which the value of the imports from the United Kingdom was Rs. 1·18 crore as against Rs. 1·75 crore in the previous year. The decrease in the total value is mainly attributable to postal decentralisation. Formerly parcels for all parts of India except the ports of Karachi, Calcutta and Madras were assessed at Bombay, but since April 1924 only parcels intended for the Bombay Presidency, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces and Central India have been tendered for assessment at this port. Consequently the total number of parcels assessed at Bombay fell from 361,834 to 231,480, and the letter packets found to contain dutiable articles from 117,357 to 45,584. The duty collected on parcels fell further from Rs. 30·88 lakhs to Rs. 21·18 lakhs and that on articles imported by letter packets from Rs. 13·25 lakhs to Rs. 9·08 lakhs owing to smaller arrivals of diamonds.

Railway plant and rolling-stock.—The improvement recorded last year under this head was not maintained, imports having fallen by Rs. 2·25 crores to Rs. 1·83 crore. This was largely due to a change in the policy of the railway administrations. Instead of keeping twelve months' stock in hand they now keep only six months' stock, and as the previously

accumulated stocks had to be worked off fresh orders for renewals were very restricted.

Sugar.—Supplies of sugar increased by 55,000 tons to 183,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 1·09 crore to Rs. 5·39 crores in value. It is interesting to note that Bombay's chief source of supply was once more Mauritius, whence some 95,000 tons arrived as against less than a thousand tons in the previous year. Imports from Java fell from 100,000 tons to 68,000 tons, and there was also a contraction of 6,000 tons in arrivals of Continental beet sugar.

Tea.—The increase in the imports of foreign tea noticed last year was not maintained, as there was a fall of nearly 4 million lb. in quantity and of Rs. 19·12 lakhs in value owing chiefly to smaller shipments of both black and green tea from China. Arrivals from Calcutta also declined further by more than 1¼ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 10·75 lakhs in value. Re-exports of foreign tea show a further rise of 19,000 lb. in quantity but a fall in value. Exports of Indian tea contracted by 744,000 lb. to 2½ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 6·49 lakhs to Rs. 28·78 lakhs in value. Persia and the countries on the littoral of the Arabian Sea depend almost entirely upon Bombay for their supply of tea.

Textiles—

Cotton, raw.—Imports of raw cotton from foreign countries advanced further by 8,436 tons to 20,093 tons in quantity and by Rs. 1·78 crores to Rs. 4·24 crores in value owing chiefly to larger arrivals from Kenya Colony, whose despatches increased by 6,607 to 16,241 tons. Out of the 16,500 tons of African cotton imported, 11,000 tons were re-exported—7,800 tons to Japan and 2,700 to the United Kingdom—and the remaining 5,500 tons were apparently consumed in Indian mills, which are now using fine foreign cotton to a small extent.

Cotton piece-goods.—The total value of the imports of cotton piece-goods (including fents) advanced further by Rs. 87·47 lakhs to Rs. 16·53 crores, to which coloured piece-goods contributed Rs. 7 crores, grey Rs. 4·6 crores and white Rs. 4·29 crores. Fents, which were valued at Rs. 63·26 lakhs, showed a small improvement and came mainly from the United Kingdom. The share of the United Kingdom in the total imports was 74 per cent. and that of Japan 17 per cent. Imports of grey piece-goods recovered slightly from the fall noticed last year by Rs. 8·69 lakhs to Rs. 4·6 crores, but the share of Japan, though larger than that of the United Kingdom, has fallen from 67 per cent. to 54 per cent. owing to smaller supplies of sheetings and drills and jeans. Under this head there are only two principal varieties, *viz.*, (1) longcloth and shirtings and (2) sheetings, both of which are chiefly supplied by Japan. The former have advanced by Rs. 68·24 lakhs to Rs. 2·03 crores, but the latter receded by Rs. 90·94 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore. Imports of whites have improved by Rs. 79·95 lakhs

to Rs. 4·29 crores, of which the United Kingdom contributed 90 per cent. The chief varieties are (1) longcloth and shirtings, (2) mulls, (3) dhutis and saris, and (4) nainsooks. These were almost entirely supplied by the United Kingdom. Imports of coloured piece-goods also showed an increase of 7½ million yards, but fell by Rs. 3·68 lakhs in value. The share of the United Kingdom in this class was 85 per cent. The principal varieties are (1) prints and chintz, (2) saris and scarves, (3) shirtings, (4) cambrics and (5) unspecified descriptions.

Cotton yarn—

From	Quantity in thousands of lb.		Value in lakhs of rupees.	
	1923-24	1924-25	1923-24	1924-25
United Kingdom	8,632	8,481	185	188
Japan	14,500	18,105	205	264
Other Countries	421	729	8	12

The total imports have increased by 3¾ million to 27¼ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 66·15 lakhs to Rs. 4·64 crores in value, owing to larger shipments from Japan, Switzerland and China. Until recently Japan has competed chiefly in the lower counts, especially 21s to 30s. In the year under review her sendings of 16s to 20s fell from nearly 4 million lb. to not much over 1½ million lb., and of 21s to 30s from 588,000 to 370,000 lb. But 31s to 40s have expanded sensationally from less than 7 million to 10½ million lb., and even the high counts from 51s to 60s have been attacked, one-third of a million lb. having arrived as against none in the preceding year. The mills of the Bombay Presidency still specialize in counts lower than 26s. In fact nearly 96 per cent. of their production is of these lower counts, although, as the table given below shows, the spinning of higher counts is going ahead distinctly. The Bombay mills are at present competing successfully with the lower grade Japanese yarns, and Japanese competition is now bearing heavily against Lancashire instead of against Bombay. From the remarkably low prices at which her higher counts have been marketed, it appears that Japan is making a definite and deliberate attack on English yarns. The total imports from Japan advanced by over 3½ million lb. to 18 million lb. and their value advanced by Rs. 58·78 lakhs to Rs. 2·64 crores. On the other hand British supplies, which as usual were mainly of high counts, once more contracted by 152,000 lb. although there was a rise in value of Rs. 3·57 lakhs. China, which was once the chief market for Indian yarns, sent to Bombay 326,000 lb. as against 140,000 lb. in 1923-24.

BOMBAY, 1924-25

(The figures are shown in millions)

	Yarn imported.			Yarn locally produced.		
	26s to 30s.	31s and upwards.	Total yarn.	26s to 30s.	31s and upwards.	Total yarn.
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1920-1921 ..	2·45	14·50	24·94	37·96	13·95	470
1921-1922 ..	3·42	15·48	31·18	39·75	14·87	493
1922-1923 ..	4·52	14·36	33·87	39·72	14·13	497
1923-1924 ..	·84	11·77	23·55	41·95	15·93	398
1924-1925 ..	·63	15·55	27·31	50·48	19·85	474

Silk.—Imports of raw silk decreased further by 52,000 lb. to 1,097,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 8·1 lakhs to Rs. 84·65 lakhs in value owing to smaller shipments from China. Supplies from Honkong, Japan and Siam expanded. But arrivals of silk yarn, noils and warps improved further by 542,000 lb. to 1,472,000 lb. in quantity and by Rs. 31·83 lakhs to Rs. 98·66 lakhs in value owing to larger shipments from all the supplying countries, *viz.*, Japan, China, Italy, the United Kingdom and France.

Imports of silk piece-goods, which constitute the most important item under this head, improved further in quantity by half a million yards to 11½ million yards, but declined in value by Rs. 10·61 lakhs to Rs. 1·79 crore owing to lower prices. Shipments from Japan, Hongkong and the United Kingdom were larger, but those from China and France fell away. Arrivals of silk mixtures declined by 341,000 yards to 1,221,000 yards in quantity and by Rs. 4·51 lakhs to Rs. 19·64 lakhs in value owing to smaller shipments from France, Italy and Switzerland, but supplies from Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom were larger.

The improvement in the imports of both artificial silk yarn and of piece-goods of cotton and artificial silk noticed last year was maintained, supplies of the former having increased further by Rs. 14·6 lakhs to Rs. 31·93 lakhs and of the latter by Rs. 35·19 lakhs to Rs. 1·02 crore. Artificial silk yarn is chiefly supplied by the United Kingdom and Italy and piece-goods by the United Kingdom, Italy and Switzerland.

Wool, raw and manufactured.—Imports of raw wool further improved by Rs. 16·68 lakhs to Rs. 36·14 lakhs owing chiefly to larger supplies from the United Kingdom and Persia. Although India exports large quantities of raw wool to the United Kingdom, the anomaly of the large imports from that country can be explained by the fact that the factories in India find it more advantageous to import cleaned wool from the United Kingdom for manufacture than to clean the indigenous product locally. Most of the Persian wool imported is re-exported to foreign

countries. Supplies of yarn and knitting wool also advanced by Rs. 2·38 lakhs owing to larger arrivals from the United Kingdom and Germany. The most important item under this head is woollen piece-goods imports of which advanced further by Rs. 44·05 lakhs to Rs. 1·26 crore owing to larger supplies from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium and Italy. The chief source of supply is the United Kingdom which supplied 67 per cent. of the total imports. Most of the other woollen manufactures, such as blankets, carpets and rugs, hosiery and shawls, also showed increases.

FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

EXPORTS

Articles were re-exported from Bombay to the value of 991 lakhs. The destinations of these re-exports are shown in the subjoined table :—

Countries.	1923–24	1924–25	Increase or decrease
	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)	Rs. (in lakhs)
Mesopotamia	82·47	69·95	—12·52
Persia	88·61	83·29	— 5·32
United Kingdom	229·93	244·82	+14·89
Arabia	103·29	95·09	— 8·20
Aden	61·49	46·13	—15·36
Tanganyika Territory	12·79	12·25	— ·54
Kenya Colony (formerly known as East African Protectorate) ..	47·98	43·31	— 4·67
Other European Countries	51·23	69·23	+18·00
Japan	80·63	164·36	+83·73
Hongkong	18·77	11·09	— 7·68
Ceylon	23·44	25·19	+ 1·75
Strait Settlements (including Labuan)	12·59	20·85	+ 8·26
United States of America	13·42	26·51	+13·09
Zanzibar and Pemba	21·51	22·99	+ 1·48

Bombay has long been the centre of the entrepot trade with Persia, Mesopotamia, Arabia and East Africa, especially in cotton piece-goods and sugar. During the last five years, however, it has also become a considerable market for foreign and especially African cotton, and this

commodity in the year under report has won pride of place on the re-export list. The total value of foreign merchandise re-exported during the year increased by Rs. 75·83 lakhs to Rs. 9·91 crores, owing chiefly to larger re-shipments of raw cotton and raw hides and skins. Re-shipments of raw cotton again expanded by nearly 5,000 tons to more than 11,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 1·07 crores to Rs. 2·37 crores in value owing chiefly to larger re-shipments to Japan which took 7,800 tons and the United Kingdom which took 2,700 tons. Re-exports of raw hides and skins, consisting almost entirely of Persian fur-bearing skins, also improved further by 97 tons to 443 tons in quantity and by Rs. 42·81 lakhs to Rs. 1·4 crore in value, owing to larger demands from the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

INDIAN PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES

The total value of the exports of Indian produce and manufactures fell from Rs. 106 to Rs. 98·6 crores. This was entirely due to smaller shipments of raw cotton after the records established in the preceding year. All the other principal articles of export except raw hides and skins and metals and ores recorded increases. The chief items in the export trade are noticed separately in the subsequent paragraphs. Of the remaining articles, exports of tea declined by Rs. 6·49 lakhs to Rs. 28·78 lakhs in value and there was a further fall of 744,000 lb. in quantity, owing chiefly to smaller shipments to other Native States in Arabia. On the other hand exports of myrabolams again improved by Rs. 14·63 lakhs to Rs. 47·55 lakhs as a result of larger shipments to the United Kingdom and France. Exports of oilcakes show a further expansion of Rs. 23·77 lakhs owing to better takings of groundnut cake by the United Kingdom and Germany and of linseed cake by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Exports of raw hemp also improved by Rs. 36·01 lakhs to Rs. 54·93 lakhs by reason of larger shipments to the United Kingdom and Belgium.

Grain, pulse and flour.—Wheat exports further increased by 36,000 tons to 58,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 62·98 lakhs to Rs. 96·93 lakhs in value, owing chiefly to larger shipments to Italy which took 36,000 tons as against 2,000 tons in the previous year. Exports to the United Kingdom, on the other hand, fell away by nearly 6,000 tons to 11,000 tons. Shipments of wheat flour advanced by nearly 6,000 tons to 24,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 11·87 lakhs to Rs. 57·52 lakhs in value owing chiefly to larger despatches to Aden. Exports of rice also expanded by more than 1,000 tons to 15,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 5·73 lakhs to Rs. 39·07 lakhs in value owing to larger shipments of cleaned rice mainly to Mesopotamia. Exports of other food grains improved, but shipments of jawar and bajri and of lentils declined.

Hides and skins (raw and tanned).—The exports of raw hides fell from 586 tons to only 55 tons in quantity and from Rs. 8·46 lakhs to Rs. 1·14

lakhs in value, owing chiefly to the fact that Italy took 42 tons only as against 529 tons in the previous year. Exports of tanned hides, on the other hand, increased further by 229 tons to 1,419 tons in quantity and by Rs. 9·49 lakhs to Rs. 56·97 lakhs in value, owing mainly to larger shipments to the United Kingdom, the chief market for this article. Export of raw skins decreased further by 2,550 tons to 3,402 tons in quantity and by Rs. 31·47 lakhs to Rs. 46·84 lakhs in value, owing to very restricted demands from the United States of America. The total shipments of dressed or tanned skins increased further by 340 tons to 785 tons in quantity and by Rs. 14·51 lakhs to Rs. 39·12 lakhs in value, chiefly as a result of better trade with the United Kingdom.

Metals and ores.—The principal item under this head is manganese ore. Exports of this ore from the whole of British India amounted to 639,000 tons as against 752,000 tons in the previous year. Shipments from Bengal contracted by 55,000 tons and from Bombay by 71,000 tons. All Bombay's customers took less except Italy.

Seeds.—Next to raw cotton the most important item in the export trade of Bombay is oil-seeds. In the year under review oil crushers in Europe were busy and drew heavy supplies from India, where supplies were ample. Consequently Bombay's exports expanded from 435,000 to 516,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 9·9 to Rs. 12·4 crores in value. Linseed in particular was in good demand, and despite a pronounced rise in rupee prices exports increased by 38,000 tons to 187,000 tons in quantity and by Rs. 1·06 crore to Rs. 5·08 crores in value. Shipments to the United Kingdom were smaller, but the Continental countries, especially France, proved good customers. The increase in exports of sesamum was chiefly due to a considerably larger demand from Italy. Shipments of castor seed, cotton seed and groundnuts improved, but those of rape contracted.

Textiles.—

Cotton, raw.—Cotton prices throughout the world are largely dependent on the prospects of the American crop. Of late years the American yield has been disappointing, with the result that prices of raw cotton have ruled very high. In 1924, however, there was at long last a good American crop, which amounted to over 13 million bales as against less than 11 million bales in 1923. The yield of the 1923-24 crop in India was estimated at over five million bales, which was a high figure though not a record. The 1924-25 crop was even greater, and is estimated at over six million bales, a figure which has never before been reached. Production in other parts of the world was also good. The result was a considerable decline in prices, but the decline did not go anything like as far as had been expected. This was mainly due to the fact that cheaper prices led to greater consumption of raw cotton and production of cotton goods. Bombay prices were unduly influenced by local conditions and were above

American parity during a great part of the year. Although the Indian crop was so large, it was late and somewhat inferior in quality, especially in the case of Oomrahs which form the bulk of Bombay's receipts.

The increased supplies of American cotton and the relatively high price of Indian cotton naturally reacted on Bombay's exports. The total shipments of raw cotton, including waste, declined from the previous year's record figure of 545,000 tons to 422,000 tons in quantity, and the value declined from Rs. 76½ crores to Rs. 63¼ crores. Every European country, except Spain, took less Indian cotton from Bombay, and exports to Japan were 46,500 tons less than the previous year's record. Japan's total takings were 242,000 tons valued at nearly Rs. 37 crores.

Cotton Manufactures.—For the second year in succession the Indian cotton mills were in the doldrums, and the depression was not relieved by any of those periodic spurts which occurred in the preceding year. There was a steady decline in the price of cloth, more or less in sympathy with the fall in the price of cotton. The home demand for cloth was never very active, and easier rates had to be accepted in order to effect sales. Japanese competition was severe and in certain instances Japanese goods were offered at prices lower than the cost price of similar goods manufactured in India. The result was that at the end of the year there was an accumulation of stocks to the extent of some 150,000 bales, a figure which represents over three months' production. Lower prices certainly stimulated the export trade, and Persia, Mesopotamia, Arabia, Egypt and countries in East and South Africa proved good customers for Indian piece-goods. The total exports advanced by nearly 16¾ million yards to 143 million yards in quantity, and by Rs. 34·84 lakhs to Rs. 4·62 crores in value. Coloured piece-goods constituted 71 per cent. and greys 28 per cent. Persia was again the largest buyer of coloured piece-goods and Mesopotamia of grey piece-goods.

The following figures indicate more clearly the changes in the trade :—

Exports of piece-goods

(In lakhs of yards)

	Grey.		Coloured.	
	Indian.	Foreign.	Indian.	Foreign.
1917–18	743	325	830	311
1918–19	512	400	636	392
1919–20	725	359	869	238
1920–21	473	320	660	131
1921–22	238	469	1,024	109
1922–23	305	512	898	126
1923–24	300	404	920	107
1924–25	437	317	984	119

The improvement in the exports of both grey and coloured Indian cloth is noticeable. Re-exports of foreign coloured cloth recovered somewhat, but foreign greys went further downhill.

Cotton yarn.—Though exports of Indian yarn declined in quantity, they actually rose in value. The decrease of 1¾ million lb. in quantity was chiefly due to smaller shipments to Hongkong, and the total cessation of exports to China, which but a few years ago was Bombay's best market. The largest despatches were still to Hongkong, but amounted only to 14 million lb. valued at Rs. 1·36 crore, as against 19½ million lb. valued at Rs. 1·81 crore in the preceding year. Defeated in the Far East, India turned to the West and Bombay despatches to Persia, Aden, Egypt and Syria improved noticeably. The relative keenness of the demand from these countries and their preference for less coarse counts largely account for the better prices obtained as indicated in the declared values of the exports.

Wool raw.—The decrease in the exports of raw wool noticed last year was more than made good in value though not wholly in quantity, shipments having expanded by nearly 6½ million lb. to nearly 23½ million lb. in quantity and by Rs. 98·48 lakhs to Rs. 2·57 crores in value. This expansion was due to larger despatches to the United Kingdom, which took 91 per cent. of the total. Exports to the United States of America and France also advanced in value by Rs. 4·68 lakhs and Rs. 5·94 lakhs.

TRADE ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES

The share of the Empire as a whole was substantially the same as last year, but distinctly lower than before the war. The United Kingdom's share, though still the largest, has again declined, but the Empire figure has been maintained by reason of the greater supplies of cotton from Kenya and sugar from Mauritius. Continental Europe is up again, but Japan, whose share is second only to the United Kingdom's, stayed almost where it was in the preceding year.

Under imports the United Kingdom figure declined further by Rs. 6 crores to nearly Rs. 38 crores, owing mainly to smaller importations of cotton spinning machinery, railway plant and rolling stock and metals, though arrivals of cotton piece-goods were larger. On the other hand imports from British possessions increased by more than Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 11 crores, owing mainly to renewed importations of sugar from Mauritius and larger arrivals of raw cotton from Kenya Colony. Imports from foreign countries in Europe advanced further by nearly Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 19 crores. Among the foreign countries in Asia, Japan continued to occupy the first place, and imports from that country advanced by Rs. 22 lakhs to over Rs. 8 crores, owing chiefly to larger supplies of cotton twist and yarn and silk yarn. Imports from China decreased by Rs. 65

lakhs to Rs. 2 crores owing to smaller arrivals of tea, raw silk and silk piece-goods. Larger supplies of fuel oil were responsible for the increase of Rs. 43 lakhs in the total imports from Persia.

On the export side Japan continues to be far and away our best customer owing to her heavy takings of raw cotton, and her share in the total exports has remained practically unchanged. Next in importance is the United Kingdom, whose share also did not vary. Shipments of Bombay's export staple, raw cotton, to both these countries contracted considerably while there were larger shipments of raw wool, hides and skins, raw and tanned, raw hemp, carpets and rugs, sandalwood oil and oilcakes to the United Kingdom. Among other countries the shares of Belgium, France, Germany, Austria and China have decreased owing to smaller shipments of raw cotton, while those of Italy, Spain and Persia have increased owing to larger despatches of seeds and wheat to Italy, of raw cotton and seeds to Spain and of cotton piece-goods and twist and yarn to Persia. There was practically no change in the share of America, larger shipments of seeds being counterbalanced by smaller supplies of raw cotton.

Treasure.—India, once more strongly entrenched behind a favourable balance of trade in merchandise, which amounted to over Rs. 155 crores in the year under report, is following her traditional manner of adjusting the balance by importing the precious metals through Bombay. In 1924-25 gold and silver have flowed in as never before, and reached the astonishing value of Rs. 94·44 crores on private account alone. This left the previous record of Rs. 58·16 crores in 1922-23 far behind. Ship after ship brought large consignments and gold valued at no less than Rs. 5·84 crores actually arrived from the United States of America and Switzerland by parcel and letter post. In all gold attained a value of Rs. 72·35 crores, and arrived either as bullion from Natal, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, or as sovereigns from the United Kingdom and Switzerland. The increase of Rs. 3·11 crores under silver was mainly due to large arrivals of bars from the United States of America. Imports of Government of India rupees also rose by Rs. 1·05 crore to Rs. 1·91 crore owing to larger receipts from Mesopotamia and the Bahrein Islands.

Exports of gold and silver on private account also expanded, the former by Rs. 27·82 lakhs to Rs. 32·76 lakhs owing chiefly to larger shipments of sovereigns to the Bahrein Islands, and the latter by Rs. 1·1 crore to Rs. 3·63 crores owing to larger shipments of bullion to China.

There were no imports of gold on Government account and silver fell away to Rs. 2·06 lakhs only.

Imports of currency notes on private account fell by Rs. 55·15 lakhs to Rs. 61·14 lakhs, but exports rose by Rs. 26·05 lakhs to Rs. 34·75 lakhs. On Government account there were no imports but exports amounted to Rs. 25 lakhs as against Rs. 11 lakhs in the previous year.

SHIPPING

The total number of vessels, steam and sailing, engaged in the foreign trade decreased further from 1,421 to 1,321 and the total net tonnage from 4,442,715 to 4,131,349. There were 1,084 steamers of the burthen of 4,101,623 as against 1,142 of 4,408,784 tons in the previous year. The average tonnage of steamers entering the port with cargo was 3,809, a figure practically identical with that of previous year. The sailing vessels consisted almost entirely of " Native Craft " engaged in trade with ports in the Persian Gulf, Arabia and East Africa.

COASTING TRADE

The coasting trade excluding treasure between the chief port—Bombay—and other ports in India grouped by Provinces is summarised in the following statement :—

(In lakhs of rupees)

	Imports.			Exports.		
	1923-1924	1924-1925	Increase or decrease.	1923-1924	1924-1925	Increase or decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
British Ports within the Presidency ..	130	117	— 13	269	226	— 43
Indian Ports not British within the Presidency .	1,119	794	—325	480	409	— 71
British Ports in other Presidencies ..	2,322	1,989	—333	2,727	2,446	—281
Indian Ports not British in other Presidencies ..	82	96	+ 14	50	55	+ 5
Grand Total ..	3,653	2,996	—657	3,526	3,136	—390

Imports from coast ports into Bombay consist almost entirely of articles of Indian produce intended partly for consumption in the Presidency and partly for re-export to foreign countries.

The total imports into Bombay from coast ports have further fallen by more than Rs. 6½ crores to nearly Rs. 30 crores, owing chiefly to smaller arrivals of raw cotton and grain, pulse and flour, the two most important articles of the import trade. Imports of raw cotton decreased by

Rs. 4·6 crores to Rs. 11·58 crores, owing to smaller shipments from all the provinces, namely, Kathiawar, Sind, Madras, Cutch and the Southern Maratha Country, *via* Goa, and those of grain, pulse and flour by Rs. 1·35 crore to Rs. 5·88 crores, owing to smaller arrivals of rice from Burma and Bengal and of wheat from Sind. Among other articles there were smaller shipments of jute manufactures and tea from Bengal, kerosene oil from Burma and raw wool from Kathiawar, Cutch and Sind; but larger supplies of seeds from Travancore and the Southern Maratha Country *via* Goa, spices from Madras and British ports within the Presidency, teak wood from Burma and coal from Bengal.

Exports from Bombay to coast ports have also decreased further by Rs. 3·9 crores to Rs. 31·37 crores, owing to smaller shipments of both Indian and foreign produce, the former of which formed 80 per cent. and the latter 20 per cent. of the total exports. The principal article of Indian produce exported is cotton piece-goods, shipments of which declined by Rs. 1·11 crore to Rs. 15·32 crores in value, owing to smaller supplies to Bengal. Exports of raw cotton decreased by Rs. 53·64 lakhs to Rs. 38·35 lakhs, owing to smaller shipments to Madras, Bengal and Pondicherry, cotton twist and yarn by Rs. 45·56 lakhs to Rs. 3·78 crores, owing to restricted demands from all the provinces except Sind and Kathiawar; and grain, pulse and flour by Rs. 20·78 lakhs to Rs. 2·66 crores as a result of smaller shipments of rice to British ports within the Presidency. Re-exports of foreign merchandise fell by Rs. 99 lakhs to Rs. 6·08 crores, owing to smaller shipments of cotton piece-goods chiefly to Madras and Sind, cotton twist and yarn to Madras and sugar to Kathiawar.

SUBORDINATE PORTS OF THE PRESIDENCY

FOREIGN TRADE

The foreign trade of the subordinate ports of the Presidency is quite insignificant. Imports, which consisted chiefly of dates from Mesopotamia, fell slightly from Rs. 4·31 lakhs to Rs. 4·22 lakhs, but exports advanced from Rs. 1,938 to Rs. 14,834, owing to larger shipments of firewood and new supplies of gunny bags to Madagascar.

COASTING TRADE

The decline in the value of the coasting trade of the subordinate ports noticed last year was more than made up, the total value having advanced by Rs. 29·82 lakhs to Rs. 8·08 crores. Both imports and exports shared in the advance. Imports increased by Rs. 27·04 lakhs to Rs. 4·55 crores and exports by Rs. 2·78 lakhs to Rs. 3·53 crores. Forty-two per cent. of the total trade of the subordinate ports is with the chief port—Bombay.

THE TRADE OF SIND

The last annual review recorded a distinct improvement in the trade of Karachi since the depression which set in at the end of 1920. The figures of trade show that the improvement was further accentuated during the year under report, and affords much cause for satisfaction to all interested in the development of this progressive port.

The notable expansion in exports increased the balance of trade in favour of the port to the extent of Rs. 21 crores 56 lakhs as compared with a credit balance of Rs. 13 crores 69 lakhs in 1923-24. The achievement of this credit balance constitutes a record, and is the outstanding feature of the year's trade. On the import side, satisfactory progress was also recorded, and conditions were more favourable than in the previous year. With the final liquidation, towards the end of the previous year, of the heavy stocks of imports accumulated in the post-war boom and the absorption of large quantities of Government Surplus Stores, a healthier tone pervaded the market and facilitated the resumption of normal trade relations.

In the year under review an expansion of Rs. 19 crores 95 lakhs took place as compared with 1923-24, in the aggregate turn over of the maritime trade of the Province of Sind, which reached the record level of Rs. 109 crores 76 lakhs. Of this 19 per cent. represents the value of the *Coasting* trade, and 81 per cent. that of the *foreign* trade which was confined as usual to Karachi. The aggregate value of the *foreign* trade increased by no less than Rs. 21 crores 76 lakhs or 33 per cent. to Rs. 88 crores 40 lakhs of which exports and imports contributed 62 and 38 per cent. respectively.

The marked increase in the aggregate value of the foreign trade was due chiefly to an expansion in the volume of imports and exports which is steadily approaching the pre-war level.

CHIEF PORT—KARACHI

The export trade again exhibited remarkable expansion both in value and volume. The former reached the unprecedented figure of Rs. 54 crores 98 lakhs, representing an increase of 37 per cent. over 1923-24. Shipments of raw cotton and wheat accounted for 63 per cent. of the total value and were mainly responsible for the remarkable improvement in the position. Of the former commodity no less than 119,504 tons valued at Rs. 18 crores 60 lakhs were exported, constituting a record for the port. Shipments of wheat amounted to 1,046,255 tons valued at Rs. 16 crores 12 lakhs. Imports increased in value by 26 per cent. to Rs. 33 crores 42 lakhs. This improvement was due chiefly to large receipts of cotton manufactures and sugar which accounted for 56 per cent. of the total value.

Notes on the changes in the value and volume of important articles in the trade are given below :—

IMPORTS

Chemicals, Drugs and Medicines.—The total value again improved by Rs. 3·02 lakhs to Rs. 35·56 lakhs, the United Kingdom being the principal supplier as usual. Under chemicals, the chief importations which showed an improvement were Soda Ash and Crystals, Soda Bicarbonate and alum. A contraction, on the other hand, took place in imports of ammonia and salts thereof, and caustic soda.

Coal.—The quantity of foreign coal imported at the port increased by 17,692 tons to 106,880 tons and its value by Rs. 1·37 lakhs to Rs. 27·29 lakhs. The increase occurred almost wholly in purchases from the United Kingdom and Natal. Bengal Coal also showed a slight improvement of 4,305 tons. Foreign coal is preferred to Bengal Coal owing to its uniformity of quality and comparative cheapness. Arrivals of the latter were confined to quantities received by importers directly interested in the Bengal Collieries.

Cotton Twist and Yarn.—The import trade in cotton twist and yarn showed a further development to the extent of 217,040 lbs. or 22 per cent. in quantity and Rs. 4·52 lakhs or 27 per cent. in value.

Cotton Yarns and Manufactures.—The piece-goods market which after the disastrous slump of 1921-22 showed signs of a slow recovery in the succeeding two years, witnessed a considerable activity during the year under report. A great demand sprang up in both local and up-country markets resulting in a considerable expansion in the volume of imports which were also stimulated to a certain extent by a vigorous demand for exports to Afghanistan. This revival was to some extent due to the fact that dealers everywhere had allowed their stocks to run down very low until it became necessary to replenish them. Favourable opportunities which offered themselves during the year also gave a further impetus to the trade. Exchange rates were favourable, and the prices at which goods were offered by the manufacturers at home were lower than spot prices which induced dealers, both local and up-country, to place large orders in the overseas markets. The total value of cotton yarn and manufactures increased from Rs. 8 crores 73 lakhs to nearly Rs. 13 crores.

Cutlery, Hardware, Implements and Instruments.—The total value of imports advanced by Rs. 16·43 lakhs to Rs. 60·51 lakhs in 1924-25. Large orders were placed in the over-seas markets as a result of favourable rates of exchange and a reduction in prices. Of the principal articles classed under this group, cutlery advanced in value from Rs. 3·65 lakhs to Rs. 7·68 lakhs, the increase having occurred in the supplies from Germany and the United Kingdom. There was also a striking increase in the imports of metal lamps, consignments valued at Rs 9·20 lakhs having

been sent by the United States of America and Germany. The trade in builders' hardware showed a partial recovery chiefly in transactions with Sweden and Germany.

Machinery.—Imports under this head showed noticeable progress. The aggregate value amounted to Rs. 121·47 lakhs, and showed an excess of Rs. 19·23 lakhs or 19 per cent. over the imports in 1923-24.

With the exception of prime-movers, all the different descriptions of machinery increased in value. The contraction under *prime-movers* occurred chiefly in the value of *oil engines*, though the number imported was larger than in the previous year. The anamoly is explained by the fact that a large number of cheap second-hand rebuilt oil engines were imported for the Punjab instead of new ones. The value of *electrical machinery* doubled itself owing to the arrivals of large consignments for the completion of the electric supply scheme in the Punjab. The value of *mining machinery* maintained the level of the imports last year, but the only noticeable change in the trade was an increase in receipts from the United States of America and a decrease in the supplies from the United Kingdom. Large importations from the United Kingdom of *cotton ginning machinery* due to the recent activities of the British cotton-growing association at Khanewal (Punjab) were responsible for the increase in the value of *textile machinery*. The notable expansion in imports of *sewing machines* is due to the extensive use and the consequent ever-growing demand both in the Province and the Punjab. No less than 23,091 machines valued at Rs. 23·52 lakhs came from the United Kingdom as against 12,965 valued at Rs. 12·60 lakhs, while Germany supplied 6,765 machines valued at Rs. 4·10 lakhs as against 3,301 valued at Rs. 2·11 lakhs. It is noteworthy that German machines are now again being placed in larger numbers on the market and are becoming more popular on account of their cheapness. A feature of the trade in *other sorts of machinery* was the importation of match-making plants for the Punjab.

Metals.—Imports under metal and metal manufactures rose by 17,382 tons in quantity and by Rs. 27⅓ lakhs in value.

It is noteworthy that despite the imposition of the protective duties the import trade in iron and steel showed a marked improvement, the total quantity imported, *viz.* 86,035 tons, having exceeded the previous year's imports by 17,188 tons or 25 per cent. and the value by Rs. 25·18 lakhs or 17 per cent. Large imports were made in response to a keen demand to meet the requirements of the several new constructional works taken in hand in the province as well as in the Punjab and also for replacing damages caused by heavy rains and floods during the year. The relatively low prices at which foreign steel could be brought into the country in consequence of a reduction in prices both at home and on the continent backed by a favourable exchange made it difficult for the indigenous material to compete favourably.

The United Kingdom which, after the unparalleled slump of 1921-22, had somewhat improved its position last year as the leading exporting country again lost its hold on the market, and her share in the percentage of the volume of imports receded from 35 per cent. to 25 per cent. in 1924-25. The British manufacturers had to face severe foreign competition, and though much of their productions were sold at or below the actual cost of manufacture, yet they were undersold by the continental producers.

Oils.—The total value of oils advanced by Rs. 15·67 lakhs to Rs. 109·59 lakhs as a result of a further increase in receipts of mineral oils.

The total quantity of *kerosene oil* imported into Karachi from both foreign countries and Burma decreased slightly to nearly 16½ million gallons but the value rose by Rs. 5·59 lakhs to Rs. 122·16 lakhs. Nearly 11 million gallons of foreign oil were imported against 9½ million gallons last year, the expansion occurring under *bulk oil* from the United States of America. It is noteworthy that a consignment of 509,675 gallons of kerosene oil valued at Rs. 3·82 lakhs came for the first time from Egypt. This was *white oil* of a superior quality received from the refineries at Suez, and was intended to compete with superior American oils. Following upon a heavy increase of nearly 2½ million gallons in 1923-24 imports of *fuel oil* decreased to 4½ million gallons of which nearly 4 million gallons came from Persia.

Piece-goods.—Imports of *piece-goods* increased by 47 per cent. in quantity and by 49 per cent. in value over the figures of 1923-24, but as compared with the pre-war year 1913-14, though the value showed an excess of 77 per cent. on account of the present high prices, the volume was short by 22 per cent. An all-round improvement occurred under all the three main divisions of piece-goods, *viz.*, grey, white and coloured. *Grey goods* recorded a considerable advance amounting to 17,576,752 yards or 162 per cent. in yardage and Rs. 65·61 lakhs or 165 per cent. in value. Large imports were made both from the United Kingdom and Japan chiefly in response to a great demand for exports to Afghanistan. The increase in receipts from Japan was particularly striking, the yardage having risen by no less than 511 per cent. and the value by 476 per cent. Imports of *white goods* also showed a marked expansion of 41 per cent. in quantity and 46 per cent. in value, the United Kingdom being the principal supplier as usual. Large imports were made to replenish depleted stocks. A good business was also done in *coloured goods*, the figures showing an excess of 39 per cent. in yardage and 38 per cent. in value over those of last year.

Silk.—Imports of silk recovered slightly in value from Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 5·05 lakhs, the improvement having taken place in arrivals of velvets from Germany.

Sugar.—Owing to a large increase in world-production and an appreciable reduction of prices, the imports of sugar during the year surpassed

all previous records and amounted to 192,995 tons valued at Rs. 580·55 lakhs representing double the quantity, and an increase of 69 per cent. over the value of imports in 1923-24. It is also interesting to note that Karachi imported more sugar this year than Bombay, where the total quantity imported amounted to 179,093 tons. The disparity between the percentages of increase in the quantity and value gives an idea of the extent of the drop in prices. The market showed a downward tendency throughout the year. The local quotations for white Java opened at Rs. 26-2 which was the highest price recorded during the year and closed at Rs. 16-14. Receipts of *Java* sugar amounted to 137,569 tons as compared with 87,882 tons in the previous year. Although this quantity represents more than 70 per cent. of the aggregate imports, the practical monopoly in the trade which that country enjoyed since the outbreak of the war has been disturbed by the re-entry into the market of other sugar-producing countries. *Mauritius* which has in recent years been selling the bulk of its sugar to the United Kingdom sent no less than 27,731 tons valued at Rs. 77·11 lakhs against none in the previous year. Purchases of Continental *beet sugar* amounted to 25,531 tons of the value of Rs. 71·57 lakhs as against 7,622 tons valued at Rs. 32·55 lakhs, an increase of 235 per cent. in quantity and 120 per cent. in value. The continued flow of low-priced sugar had, however, a very depressing effect upon the market, and sugar merchants who had contracted large forward business are reported to have incurred considerable losses.

Woollen goods.—The aggregate value of imports of *woollen goods* advanced by Rs. 18·12 lakhs to Rs. 73·27 lakhs. *Yarn and knitting wool* which is mostly consumed by the Amritsar market came in larger quantities, imports amounting to 246,923 lbs. valued at Rs. 10·70 lakhs, an increase of 28,655 lbs. and Rs. 1·72 lakhs. Of the total quantity received during the year, Germany sent 161,766 lbs., the United Kingdom 60,404 lbs. and France 19,650 lbs. as against 150,077 lbs., 52,567 lbs. and 5,511 lbs., respectively. A brisk business was done during the year in *woollen piece-goods*, the quantity having increased further by 580,388 yards to 2,521,451 yards and the value by Rs. 10·67 lakhs to Rs. 51·38 lakhs. The expansion was noticeable in importations from the United Kingdom and France, supplies from the latter country largely comprising *shawl cloth* for the Amritsar market. Germany and Belgium, on the other hand, sent reduced quantities. The increase in imports of piece-goods was due to a reduction in prices and favourable rates of exchange ruling during the year.

Tea.—The imports of tea rose by 117,217 lbs. to 1,068,930 lbs. and its value by Rs. 4·61 lakhs to Rs. 11·50 lakhs. The increase was contributed mainly by receipts of green tea from China, which in the previous year showed a marked decline. Despite high prices some 883,000 lbs. of this tea came from China against 409,975 lbs. valued at Rs. 3·40 lakhs in 1923-24.

Vehicles (excluding locomotives, etc., for railways).—The increased trading done in the previous year was further improved upon during the year under review, the total value rising by Rs. 6·36 lakhs to Rs. 41·93 lakhs. A general increase occurred in the number of all the important classes of vehicles imported at this port. The increase (2,651) in the number of cycles was particularly striking and is accounted for by large purchases of British cycles, *viz.*, 8,698 cycles as against 4,964 in 1923-24. German machines showed a decrease in number from 2,137 to 1,026. The number of motor cars imported during the year was 744 valued at Rs. 19·17 lakhs against 595 valued at Rs. 16·53 lakhs. Both American and Canadian cars came in large numbers, the increase being more prominent in arrivals of the former. These cars are largely in demand on account of their cheapness. The small increase in the number of British cars did not occur in importations for trade purposes, but was due to arrivals of second-hand cars, property of private individuals coming to India. Motor cycles and motor waggons also increased in number from 163 and 56 to 215 and 120 respectively.

EXPORTS

Grain, Pulse and Flour.—The year 1924-25 witnessed a notable expansion in exports under this head, the aggregate shipments amounting to 1,671,075 tons valued at Rs. 2,402·52 lakhs, or an increase of 77 per cent. in quantity and 89 per cent. in value as compared with the preceding year. A heavy and insistent demand coupled with high prices greatly stimulated the sales of the large exportable surplus of cereals available as a result of four successive favourable monsoons. The redeeming feature was the complete recovery of the trade, the aggregate quantity exported showing an excess of 40 per cent. over the shipments in the pre-war year 1913-14.

Wheat.—As regards the shipments of wheat effected during the year, it is highly gratifying to note that the trade in this leading commodity which was greatly dislocated since the war showed a complete recovery. The quantity exported amounted to 1,046,255 tons and the value to Rs. 1,611·75 lakhs, the former showing an excess of 72 per cent. and the latter of 87 per cent. over the figures recorded in the past year. As compared with the pre-war year 1913-14 there was also an increase of 17 per cent. in quantity and 65 per cent. in value. Shipments from Karachi represented 94 per cent. of the total quantity (1,111,691 tons) exported from the whole of India. The enormous increase in exports of wheat is explained by the fact that during the year just elapsed, there was a great shortage of crops in most of the wheat producing countries of the world, more particularly in Canada, and in consequence great demands were made upon India's 1924 crop from the outside markets. There was again a keen demand for barley, and the last year's unusually heavy shipments

were further surpassed. No less than 388,062 tons valued at Rs. 449·37 lakhs were sent abroad, the figures recording an increase of 228,124 tons or 143 per cent. in quantity and Rs. 280·37 lakhs or 166 per cent. in value on the exports in that year.

Raw cotton.—The continued expansion in exports of cotton is a gratifying feature of the trade of this port. For the third year in succession shipments showed a remarkable increase, the figures recorded, *viz.*, 119,504 tons valued at Rs. 1,860·32 lakhs, exceeding the previous year's record figures by 26,931 tons or 29 per cent. in quantity and by Rs. 368·71 lakhs or 25 per cent. in value. No less than 26,675 tons of cotton valued at Rs. 418·37 lakhs were shipped to Japan against only 3,398 tons valued at Rs. 60·73 lakhs last year. China also purchased some 9,070 tons valued at Rs. 136·52 lakhs against only 527 tons valued at Rs. 7·76 lakhs. Exports to United Kingdom and Germany, on the other hand, fell away by 5,548 tons and 1,976 tons respectively. It is noteworthy that while Karachi's share in the total quantity (638,852 tons) exported from the whole of India improved from 14 per cent. last year to 19 per cent. in 1924-25, that of Bombay declined from 79 per cent. to 72 per cent.

Raw wool.—The quantity and value of raw wool exported abroad during the year increased considerably to 27,795,512 lbs. valued at Rs. 241·24 lakhs, being an increase of 48 per cent. in quantity and 57 per cent. in value. The figures recorded were the highest in the quinquennium. The bulk of the shipments as usual went to the United Kingdom. United States of America also considerably increased in their purchase.

Seeds.—After a great activity in the previous two years, exports of seeds recorded a decline of 20 per cent. in quantity and 16 per cent. in value which occurred almost wholly under rapeseed. Exports of rapeseed which aggregated 198,702 tons valued at Rs. 458·09 lakhs suffered a setback to the extent of 24 per cent. in quantity and 19 per cent. in value as compared with 1923-24, which was a record year, but the figures were above the quinquennial average. Excepting Italy which took 11,077 tons more than in the last year, all the principal countries purchased smaller quantities. Karachi was the largest exporter of rapeseed, her share in the total quantity (260,637 tons) shipped from the *whole of India* being 76 per cent.

The quantity of cotton seed contracted slightly by 1,173 tons or 3 per cent. to 34,493 tons, but the value rose by Rs. 1·84 lakhs or 5 per cent. to Rs. 39·92 lakhs. The decrease in the quantity was due to a smaller demand from the United Kingdom, the principal purchaser, and the increase in value was attributable to local prices rising in sympathy with the prices in the United Kingdom. Shipments of *castor seed* which from 4,893 tons in 1922-23 had dwindled to only 106 tons last year, again revived, the figures having risen to 3,527 tons in quantity and Rs. 9·78 lakhs in value. Exports of linseed decreased further by 501 tons and Rs. 1·24

lakhs to 200 tons valued at Rs. 47,463, Bombay and Bengal being the only chief exporting centres in India. Though shipments of sesamum (jinjili) seed showed a slight improvement to the extent of 217 tons, yet the quantity exported, *viz.*, 569 tons, fell far short of the quinquennial as well as the pre-war average.

Hides and Skins, Raw.—The total exports of hides and skins amounted to 6,044 tons, valued at Rs. 80·88 lakhs, showing an increase of 1,508 tons in quantity and Rs. 21·86 lakhs in value over the previous year.

Exports in raw hides advanced by 561 tons or 40 per cent. in quantity and by Rs. 10·02 lakhs or 65 per cent. in value. Germany and Spain purchased *cow hides* freely, while *calf skins* went in larger numbers to Italy and Spain. Shipments to the United Kingdom, on the other hand, contracted by 127 tons in quantity and by Rs. 90,191 in value.

The quantity of *goat skins* shipped abroad rose by 416 tons or 13 per cent. to 3,508 tons and the value by Rs. 6·31 lakhs or 15 per cent. to Rs. 49·73 lakhs. The United States of America, the chief customer, increased her purchases from 2,572 tons valued at Rs. 35·25 lakhs to 3,025 tons valued at Rs. 42·22 lakhs, and shipments to France also showed an advance from 87 tons valued at Rs. 1·32 lakhs to 307 tons valued at Rs. 4·90 lakhs. Exports of goat skins to the United Kingdom which mainly took place in the first half of the year declined again by 178 tons and Rs. 3·08 lakhs to 167 tons valued at Rs. 2·40 lakhs. Shipments of *sheep skins* which had dwindled into insignificance in the previous two years exhibited a smart recovery, the figures rising by 434 tons and Rs. 5·38 lakhs to 464 tons valued at Rs. 5·62 lakhs. The increase was due to a better demand from the United States of America, United Kingdom and Germany.

Metallic Ores, etc.—Exports under this head consist of chromite (chrome iron ore), a mineral product of Baluchistan. Exports rose to 21,466 tons valued at Rs. 6·44 lakhs, showing an excess of 2,849 tons and Rs. 85,440.

Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.—The total value of exports declined by Rs. 2·11 lakhs to Rs. 31·33 lakhs. The decrease occurred chiefly under saltpetre, painters' materials, cotton piece-goods and haberdashery. Shipments of hides and skins, tanned or dressed, the principal article under this head, however, advanced in value by Rs. 4·64 lakhs to Rs. 13·51 lakhs.

Foreign merchandise re-exported.—The total value of articles of *foreign merchandise* re-exported to foreign countries receded from Rs. 245·63 lakhs to Rs. 241·24 lakhs or by 1 per cent. The principal articles which were responsible for the decline were *sugar, tanned skins, kerosene oil, dried fruits, raw cotton and cotton piece-goods.* After the heavy buying done in the previous year, the gulf ports reduced their purchases of *sugar* to a great extent and in consequence exports declined by 3,485 tons and Rs. 21·46 lakhs to 6,943 tons valued at Rs. 28·09 lakhs. Exports of

tanned skins comprise chiefly *fur-skins*. Shipments of these skins which had also risen abnormally in 1923-24 suffered a setback, the figures for the past two years being 103 tons valued at Rs. 26·27 lakhs and 58 tons valued at Rs. 16·90 lakhs, respectively. The decrease was due to a poor demand from the United Kingdom. The value of exports of *dried fruits* contracted by Rs. 2·68 lakhs to Rs. 4·86 lakhs mainly owing to smaller despatches of *raisins* to the United Kingdom in consequence of a reduced demand. Last year a large consignment of *kerosene oil* re-exported to the United States of America raised the value under this head to Rs. 10·22 lakhs, but in the absence of any such transaction this year, a corresponding decrease was recorded. *Foreign raw cotton* exported at this port is wholly *Persian*, and the decrease under that head was due to Germany not having taken this cotton during the year against 171 tons valued at Rs. 2·67 lakhs in 1923-24. Shipments to the United Kingdom, on the other hand, rose by 81 tons and Rs. 1·20 lakhs to 188 tons valued at Rs. 3·04 lakhs. The value of *cotton piece-goods* fell by Rs. 1·23 lakhs to Rs. 14·24 lakhs as a result of smaller despatches to gulf ports. On the other hand there was a heavy increase in shipments of *raw wool* and *woollen manufactures*. Shipments of the former rose by no less than 973,801 lbs. in quantity and Rs. 21·14 lakhs in value to 9,468,947 lbs. valued at Rs. 82·58 lakhs. Both the United Kingdom and the United States of America took larger quantities. The increase was attributable to a keen demand and the incentive of high prices. The value of *woollen manufactures* which totalled Rs. 65·63 lakhs showed an excess of Rs. 19·71 lakhs over the exports in the preceding year and was the highest yet recorded.

COASTING TRADE

The total value of the coasting trade during the year amounted to Rs. 2,136·16 lakhs, showing a decrease of Rs. 180·74 lakhs or 8 per cent. as compared with the previous year. The decrease was confined to the export trade, the value of which receded from Rs. 1,122·43 lakhs to Rs. 923·59 lakhs.

SUBORDINATE PORTS

Keti Bander and Sirganda.—The total value of the entire trade of these two ports decreased from Rs. 19·15 lakhs to Rs. 17·72 lakhs in 1924-25. Keti Bander contributed 57 per cent. and Sirganda 43 per cent. to the total trade.

SHIPPING

Foreign trade.—There was an increase in the number of vessels engaged in the *foreign* trade from 1,189 to 1,443 and an improvement in the tonnage from 2,134,107 to 2,895,073 tons. The bulk of the shipping

consisted as usual of *steam vessels* numbering 1,007 with an aggregate burthen 2,853,743 tons, showing an increase of 257 in number and 761,579 tons in burthen. The average tonnage per steamer again rose from 2,790 to 2,834 tons, while that of sailing vessels was 95 tons as against 96 tons last year.

Coasting trade.—Though the total number of *steamers* employed in the *coasting trade* declined by 29 to 1,031 tons, their tonnage rose by 65,316 to 2,530,189 tons owing to vessels of a larger burthen having entered the port during the year.

ADEN

The total value of the private Sea-borne and Land Trade increased from Rs. 14 crores 78 lakhs to Rs. 16 crores 73 lakhs. The value of import trade, exclusive of treasure, increased by Rs. 63 lakhs to Rs. 7 crores 63 lakhs. The value of articles of food, drink and tobacco increased from Rs. 2 crores 19 lakhs to Rs. 2 crores 40 lakhs, coffee, spices, sugar, tobacco unmanufactured and cigarettes being the articles chiefly responsible for the increase. Grain and pulse, dates, ghee and tea-black showed a decrease.

The value of raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured increased from Rs. 1 crore 78 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore 83 lakhs. Coal increased in quantity by 18,827 tons due to larger consignments of Welsh coal but there was a decrease in South African coal. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured increased from Rs. 2 crores 90 lakhs to Rs. 3 crores 26 lakhs. The increases were noticeable under drugs and medicines—chiefly in patent medicines from the United Kingdom, hardware and cutlery, dyeing and tanning substances—chiefly in aniline and indigo, glassware, earthenware and metals. The value of cotton goods amounted to Rs. 2 crores 60¾ lakhs against Rs. 2 crores 33¼ lakhs in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 27½ lakhs.

The total value of the export Sea-borne Trade, exclusive of treasure, amounted to Rs. 6 crores 23 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 5 crores 45 lakhs in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 78 lakhs, coffee, wheat flour, jowari, spices, sugar refined, salt and unmanufactured tobacco being chiefly responsible for the increase in articles of food and drink ; while the decreases were under dried fruits and vegetables, etc., and ghee. Raw materials and produce decreased in value by Rs. 2¼ lakhs but articles wholly or mainly manufactured increased by Rs. 43 lakhs.

The total imports of treasure increased by Rs. 48,72,000 and exports by Rs. 14,20,000.

The sea-borne trade during 1924-25, exclusive of treasure, amounted to Rs. 13 crores 87 lakhs of which India's share was Rs. 2 crores 34 lakhs.

The number of vessels that entered the port increased from 1,220 to 1,315 and the tonnage from 4,103,319 to 4,255,233.

SHIPPING OFFICES

In addition to the shipping, paying off and discharging of ships' crews, the Shipping Office has a variety of miscellaneous duties to perform. These include the settlement of disputes between ship-masters and seamen, the administration of the estates of deceased seamen of the Mercantile Marine, the disposal of distressed British and Indian seamen and the inspection of rations and water provided for the crews. The settlement of claims of seamen or their dependants in case of accident or death and the receipt and disposal of dead seamen's effects and the registration of seamen also come within the scope of the Shipping Master.

During the year under report the Bombay Shipping Office signed on 35,827 seamen of many nationalities and discharged 35,253. About 10,000 Goanese were signed and discharged, almost all in the Stewards Department. 22,600 other Indians were signed and 22,300 discharged. Deck hands were both Hindus and Mahomedans but those in the engine room were exclusively Mahomedans. The total expenditure was about Rs. 70,000.

The Karachi Shipping Office shipped 697 seamen and discharged 1,078. The expenditure was Rs. 1,440.

The Aden Shipping Office engaged and discharged 2,009 seamen and 70 distressed seamen were repatriated.

LABOUR OFFICE

During the year ending 31st March 1925, the Labour Office completed its second enquiry into Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton Mill Industry in the Bombay Presidency. The Report of this enquiry was published in September 1925. A most gratifying feature of the enquiry was the fact that all the 186 cotton mills working in the Bombay Presidency and the Baroda State in August 1923 supplied the information asked for. Several changes were made in the methods adopted for the tabulation of the statistics collected and an interesting section was added giving complete information, with facts and figures, regarding that most important question, absenteeism in Indian cotton mills.

The statistics in connexion with Agricultural Wages in the Bombay Presidency during the years 1923 and 1924 were brought up to date and the results published in a summary form in the section on 'Labour and Wages' in the General Administration Report.

The work of collecting detailed budgets of income and expenditure for 1,750 representative middle class families in Bombay City was completed during the year. The statistics collected were tabulated partly in the Labour Office itself and partly with the aid of special electrical tabulating machinery which has been set up in the office of the G. I. P. Railway. The important features of this enquiry were published from time to time

in the *Labour Gazette* and the complete report, which is now under preparation, will be published early in 1926.

A General Census of Clerical Wages in Commercial and semi-public offices in Bombay City was taken during the year and the results are now being tabulated.

Much important work was done during the year in connexion with the improvement of the various Prices Index Numbers. The Bombay City Working Class Cost of Living Index was reconstructed on a revised basis and a suggestion made for the adoption of the new method is under the consideration of Government. Various public and commercial bodies in the Presidency were circularized in connexion with the reconstruction of the Wholesale Prices Index Numbers for Bombay and Karachi which has now been taken over by the Government of India.

The Labour Office also did a considerable amount of work in connexion with Labour Legislation during the year under report. A Bill for the collection of statistics was drafted for the Government of Bombay. This Bill was introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council in July 1924, and in the light of the criticisms in the Council the Bill was remodelled by the Labour Office. The Government of India also published four important Bills during the latter half of the year 1924—(1) A Bill to make Provision for enabling the Investigation and Settlement of Trade Disputes; (2) A Bill to Provide for the Registration of Trade Unions and in certain respects to Define the Law Relating to Registered Trade Unions in British India; (3) A Bill to Regulate the Employment of Women, in Factories and Mines and on those Estates to which the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, applies before and after confinement, and to make Provision for the Payment of Maternity Benefit; and (4) A Bill to make Provision for the Weekly Payment of Wages to Workmen, Domestic Servants and other Employees. The first two of these four Bills were Government Bills; the third was introduced by Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., and the fourth by Dewan Chaman Lall, M.L.A. Copies of these bills were circulated by the Labour Office to all important public, commercial and labour bodies and associations and also to interested persons in the Presidency for an expression of their views. The statements of views submitted to the Labour Office were critically examined and summarised and draft replies for issue to the Government of India were submitted to the Local Government. An important enquiry was also instituted, on behalf of the Government of India, in connexion with the methods of payment of wages.

Several improvements were effected in the matter and make-up of the *Labour Gazette.*

There were no strikes of any magnitude during the year. Trade disputes numbered 54, involving 13,027 workpeople directly and 4,087 indirectly. The number of working days lost only amounted to a little over fifty

thousand as against nearly ten and a quarter million during the year ending 31st March 1924, over half a million during the year ending 31st March 1923 and over a million and a half during the year ending 31st March 1922.

Full and accurate information was collected, as in the previous year, in regard to trade unions. At the end of the year there were 9 unions with 22,181 members in Bombay City and Island, 8 unions with 18,763 members in Ahmedabad and 19 unions with 10,681 members in the rest of the Presidency, or a total of 36 unions with a membership of 51,625. The unions of the cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad were as usual the best organised Trade Unions in the Presidency. A striking feature of Trade Unionism in Western India was the continued absence of any unions directly representative of Cotton Mill Operatives in Bombay City.

The revenue which accrued to the credit of Government from advertisements in, and the sale of, the *Labour Gazette* amounted to Rs. 5,413 during the year. The cost of maintaining the Department for 1924-25 was Rs. 98,764.

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

THE Public Works Department has long been an important feature of the British Administration in India. Its history dates from 1854 when it first came to be organised on a definite basis in succession to the old Military Boards, constituted mainly for the carrying out of military works.

For administrative purposes the work of the Department is divided into two sections : (*i*) Roads and Buildings and (*ii*) Irrigation.

During the year 1924-25 the Roads and Buildings Branch executed works the total expenditure on which was 2 crores 17½ lakhs. The expenditure on buildings connected with Imperial Services amounted to over Rs. 13¾ lakhs, which included Rs. 2¾ lakhs on Salt, 3½ lakhs on Post and Telegraph offices and Rs. 4 lakhs on Military Works.

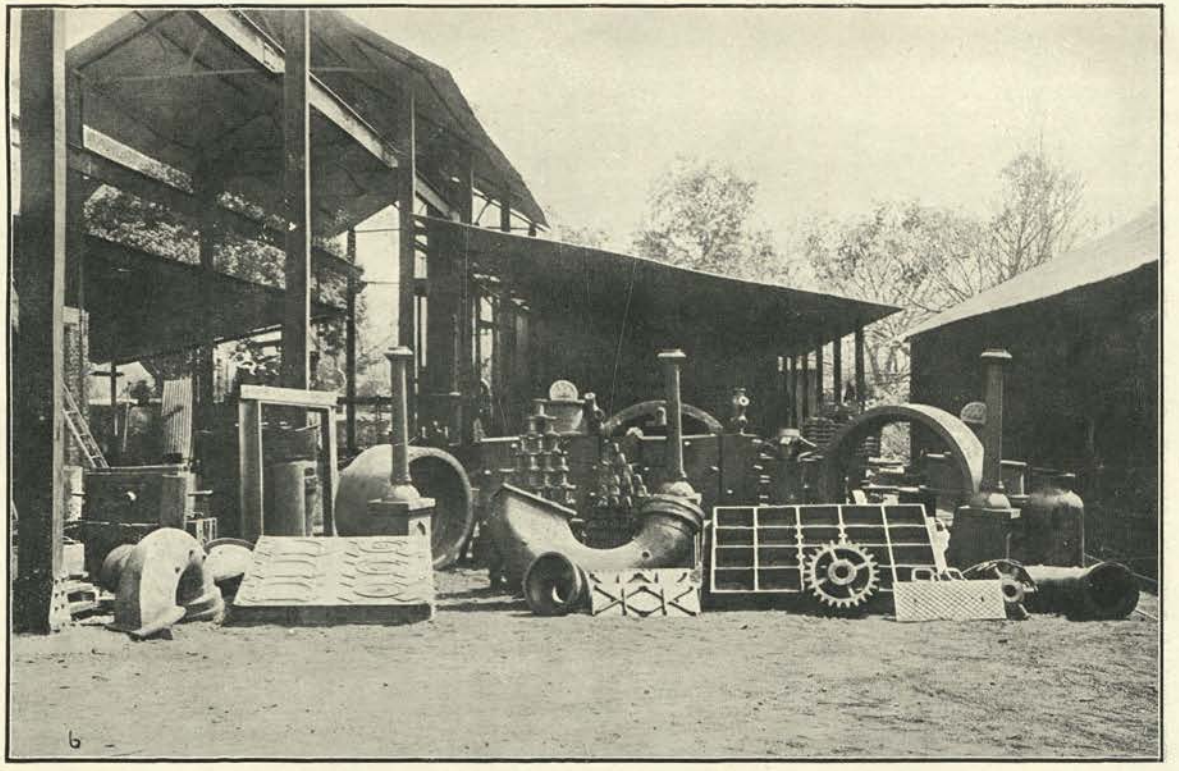
Provincial Services.—The chief items of expenditure were General Administration, *i.e.*, Residences for Heads of Provinces and works for Commissioners and District Officers, which amounted to nearly Rs. 14¼ lakhs. Additions and alterations were made to six Mamlatdars' Kutcheries in the Presidency and the construction of two bungalows for Government Officers at Yeravda, Poona, was completed, while that at Kopri, Thana, was in progress.

Under Administration of Justice, the works cost over Rs. 7 lakhs and under Jails and Convict Settlements over Rs. 8½ lakhs. Works in connection with the new Jail for under-trial prisoners and the new Civil Jail for 40 prisoners at Arthur Road, Bombay, and the Central Prison at Nasik Road Station were in progress.

The expenditure under the head 'Police' was about Rs. 25¾ lakhs, chiefly on housing schemes for members of the Police force in Bombay City and mofussil.

The works and repairs under 'Medical' cost over Rs. 13¾ lakhs. Several works in connection with the King Edward Memorial Hospitals at Parel, Bombay, and at Sholapur were in progress, while those in connection with the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital, Bombay, the Maternity Ward in the compound of the Ripon Hospital at Ahmednagar and the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Poona, were completed.

The works of constructing the Pavilion at Apollo Bunder, Bombay, (Gateway of India) and the Historical Museum and Library at Satara, were completed ; the former was publicly opened on 4th December 1924 by His Excellency the Viceroy, and the latter by His Excellency the Governor on 3rd November 1925.



Group of castings made at the P. W. D. Workshops, Dapuri, Poona.
The large roller rim weighs over a ton.

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Dapuri Workshops.—The Workshops showed a decided improvement. The gross turn-over was about Rs. 3 lakhs, showing an increase of about Rs. 85,000 over the last year. Several steam rollers, portable engines, pumps, oil engines, etc., were overhauled and parts renewed where required. During the year 90 sluice gates, 180 pulleys and brackets and 10,000 boundary posts for the Irrigation Department, 24 lamp posts for the Lloyd Bridge, Poona, 390 gates and 1,920 windows for Nasik Jail, etc., were manufactured. Forty Apprentices are undergoing training and some of them, who have finished their time, are still employed and are turning out really good work. The Graduates under training from the Engineering College, Poona, are always very keen and are rendering excellent service. The Winding Department of the Electrical Engineer was transferred to the Workshops, where fans and motors are being repaired.

ELECTRICAL WORKS

An expenditure of about Rs. 6¼ lakhs was incurred on Electrical Works during the year, important installations being at Central Offices, Poona, Government Buildings at Kopri (Thana) and King Edward Memorial Hospital, Parel.

COMMUNICATIONS

Over Rs. 32¾ lakhs were spent on new roads and additions and alterations to existing ones, while repairs to roads cost over Rs. 31¾ lakhs during the year 1924-25.

ARBORICULTURE

Nurseries were maintained at various places and the planting, watering and protection of roadside trees continued to receive careful attention. About 39,550 trees were planted during the year along Provincial and Local Fund Roads in charge of the Public Works Department.

MISCELLANEOUS

Over Rs. 2¾ lakhs were spent on various water supply and drainage schemes. The principal water works were completed at Pandharpur, Yeravda, Hindalgi Jail, Thana, Lonavla, Nargund, Sukkur, Poona, and Kapadvanj. About 26 schemes for water supply and drainage were under investigation in the sub-divisions. The projects for the Lloyd Barrage, Rohri Township water supply and drainage, improvements to Poona water supply, Sholapur drainage and Dhulia drainage were prepared during the year. Boring operations for water supply by power and hand boring machines were conducted at Karachi (Drigh Road), Aden, Dhandhuka, Dholka, Vadgaon, and Vinzuwada (Ahmedabad Division), Chanchwal (Broach Division) and Panwel (Kolaba Division).

Tolls on Provincial Roads to the extent of about Rs. 1 lakh were abolished.

IRRIGATION

GENERAL

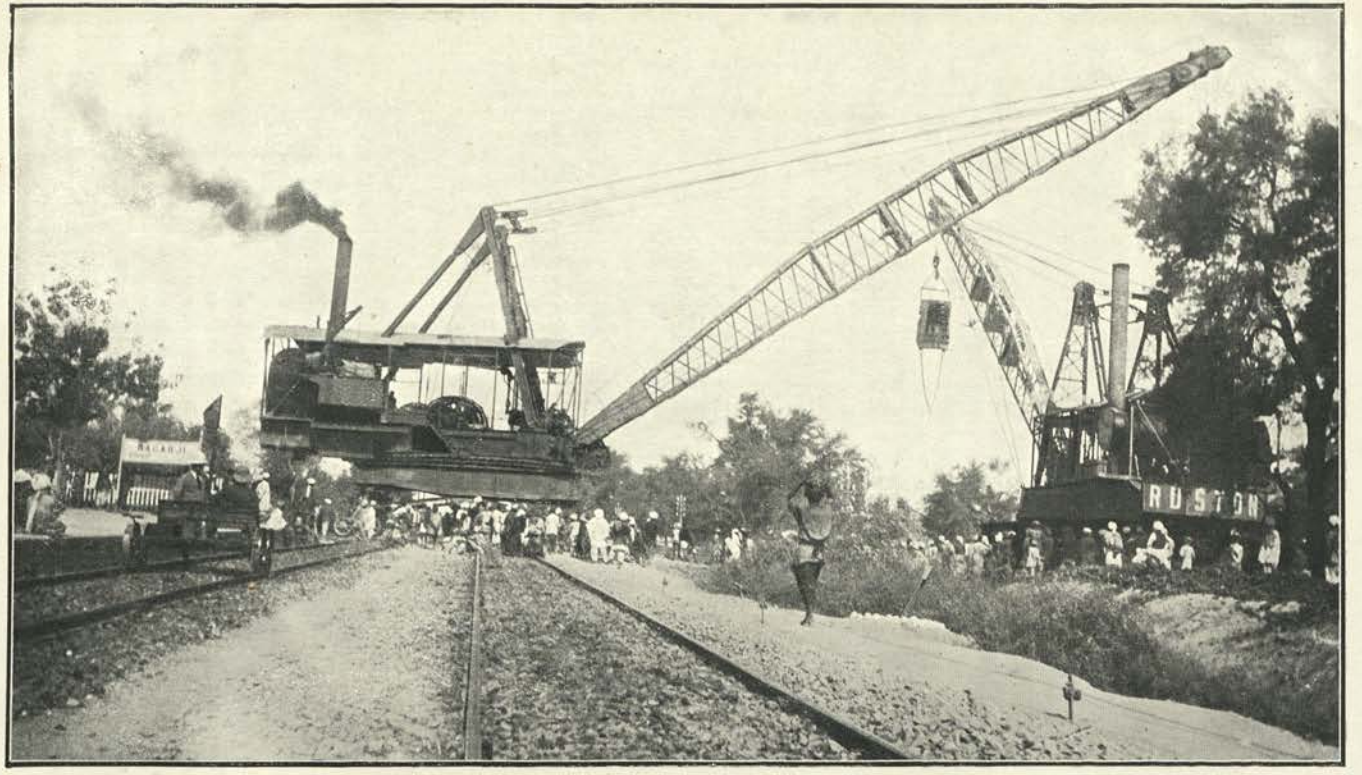
The expenditure on all irrigation works in the Presidency during the year 1924-25 was Rs. 243⅓ lakhs showing an increase of Rs. 77 lakhs over the previous year. Of this amount Rs. 187½ lakhs were spent in Sind and the balance in the Deccan and Gujarat.

The irrigation works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept fall under two categories, *viz.*, (1) Productive and (2) Unproductive. The total receipts and expenditure on these works were Rs. 84 lakhs and Rs. 169 lakhs respectively in Sind and Rs. 27 lakhs and Rs. 45⅓ lakhs respectively in the Deccan and Gujarat. Comparing the year's receipts with the expenditure there is a loss of Rs. 85 lakhs and Rs. 18⅓ lakhs in Sind and in the Deccan and Gujarat respectively. The loss in Sind is heavy owing to the expenditure on the Lloyd Barrage works which are under construction. The total area irrigated by the works showed an increase of 265,000 acres over the average of the past three years. The increase was in Sind where the area irrigated rose from 3,360,000 acres to 3,625,000 acres. The area irrigated in the Deccan and Gujarat was less by 1,000 acres as compared with 272,000 acres, the average.

For the remaining works capital accounts are not kept and they are financed from ordinary revenues. The area under irrigation on these works showed an increase of 17,000 acres when compared with the average. The areas under irrigation were 158,000 in the Deccan and Gujarat and one lakh acres in Sind. These works did not yield any net revenue, as the expenditure during 1924-25, *viz.*, Rs. 36¼ lakhs, exceeded the receipts by Rs. 18¾ lakhs.

The irrigation works in charge of the Public Works Department are divided into two distinct spheres, (1) Sind and (2) Deccan and Gujarat. In Sind the rainfall is negligible and cultivation is dependent on the inundation of the river Indus. The canals are mostly inundation canals dependent on the natural rise of the water level in the river. When the river is low the canals receive only a scanty supply but when the inundation is high, cultivation on a large scale is possible. The period of inundation however lasts for only about 4 months, *i.e.*, June to September only. For the rest of the year most of the canals do not flow and irrigation is obtained by means of wells. The Lloyd Barrage and Canals have been designed to do away with this defect. By constructing the Barrage it will be possible to head up the water in the river to a sufficiently high level to give flow irrigation all the year round.

In the Deccan and Gujarat rainfall is necessary for agricultural operations. The tanks and canals in this part of the country provide irrigation to more valuable crops and they prove a reliable source of water supply when the rainfall is deficient or irregular. Two large irrigation projects,



Dragline Excavators for the three Right Bank Canals *ex* Indus at Sukkur. Ruston and Hornby's Model No. 300, crossing the North-Western Railway line at Bagerji.

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viz., the Nira Right Bank Canal and the Pravara River Works system, which have been under construction since 1912 and 1911 respectively, are nearing completion. These projects will irrigate certain tracts most liable to famine.

SIND

The inundation of 1924 was an excellent one in that a very high level of water in the Indus was maintained for an unusually long period though this caused floods which breached some of the river bunds. The river reached ' the fair irrigating level ' of 13 feet on the Bukkur gauge on the 19th July and remained at that level for 50 days. On the Kotri gauge the ' fair irrigating level ' of 17 feet was first recorded on the 4th July and this level was maintained for 86 days.

Indus Right Bank Circle.—The Desert canal worked most satisfactorily, kharif crops matured very well and an exceptionally large rabi area was sown. The supply in the Unharwah was more than sufficient throughout the abkalani ; the balancing tanks at the head gave valuable supply to rabi crops. The Begari canal was opened on 25th May and ceased to flow on 13th December ; owing to abnormally high abkalani, rotations were started in October. The supply in the Choi branch was exceptionally good, all crops matured and a large area was watered for rabi. Considerable advantage was obtained from the new mouth to the dhand which feeds the Mahiwah. Floods discharged into the Masuwah gave an ample supply to kharif and rabi cultivation. The Sind and Sukkur canals worked satisfactorily. A rabi regulator to secure command of high lands in the upper reaches of the recently completed Garkino canal is under construction. The Ghar canal worked excellently.

Indus Left Bank Circle.—Of the two groups of canals in this Circle, the first, *viz.*, the Eastern Nara system includes the Jamrao, Mithrao, Khipro, Thar and Hiral canals, all of which except the Khipro, which flows during the inundation only, are semi-perennial, and are fed by the Nara supply channel. Besides the construction of extensive groynes, bunds across the old channel have been renewed. The area cultivated on the Jamrao was about 222,700 acres of which nearly 128,200 acres were under cotton. There was an increase in the kharif area cultivated but in consequence of an unsatisfactory water-supply which practically failed after December 1924, there was a fall in the rabi area. The Mithrao canal irrigated about 108,900 acres. The Hiral and Thar Canals irrigated about 12,600 and 55,000 acres, respectively.

The second group consists of canals taking off direct from the Indus and includes the Nasrat, Dad, Fuleli, Hassanali and a large number of small canals. The Nasrat irrigated about 94,900 acres. The Dad worked satisfactorily during the abkalani though there was as usual deficiency at the tail of the Mubarak. Supply in the Naulakhi canal was excellent. The Fuleli worked quite satisfactorily as did the Hassanali and other canals

in the Fuleli Canals Division. All the canals in the Hyderabad Canals Division worked satisfactorily except the extreme tail of the Sarfraz canal; the cultivation in this Division was about 277,000 acres.

The Indus River Commission is entrusted with the entire management and control of the river Indus in the province of Sind. It has to carry out the necessary surveys and to construct and maintain the river bunds which protect the country from the high floods in the river. The length of the river surveyed during the year was 538 miles. The work of demarcating district boundaries was completed. The total length of bund surveys was 570 miles. The Indus River Commission also arranges for the accurate gauging of the river and for velocity silt and discharge observations. The results of these observations are printed in the Indus River Commission Records published from time to time.

BREACHES AND FLOODS

Indus Right Bank Circle.—Owing to a very high level of the river during the abkalani breaches occurred in the Shikarpur Canals, Western Nara, and Karachi Canals Divisions and caused damage to crops and private property. The breach at mile 76 of the Western Nara bunds was rather serious, but was promptly closed. All attempts to close the breach at mile 3/3 of the Mulchand-Shahbunder bund failed.

Indus Left Bank Circle.—Very serious breaches occurred in the banks of the Dad canal and Rs. 60,000 were spent on raising and strengthening them. Breaches also occurred at other places but were promptly closed and further damage averted.

LLOYD BARRAGE AND CANALS CONSTRUCTION

North Western and Western Circles.—Preliminary works such as surveys and lining out, jungle cutting, nicking out the central line of the canals, preparing service paths and demarcating boundary lines, etc., were completed. Detailed information regarding discharges and gauge readings of the Begari and its branches was collected. Investigations were made for the irrigation of the area of the present Sukkur canal which will be cut off by the Right Bank Canals. Good progress was made with the acquisition of land. The erection of dragline machines for the excavation of the canals was satisfactorily completed and actual work of excavation has been taken in hand. The work of contour survey and remodelling of the Begari canal is in progress.

Rohri Canal Circle.—The contour survey of the area commanded by the Rohri Canal and of the additional area to be taken up in the Tando Bago taluka was completed. Final alignments of the main canal and most of the branches and general alignments of all the distributaries were approved and designs of channels taken in hand. Good progress was made in the acquisition of land. Parts of the four large and three small

Dragline Excavators crossing Sukkur Canal on a bank 16 feet high, pierced with 6 ' armco ' pipes 36" in diameter to carry the canal discharge.

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dragline excavators for this Circle commenced arriving in August 1924. Railway lines were laid both at Rohri and Mehrabpur. Bed stones were fixed and the work of constructing bench marks near wells for subsoil water level observations was completed.

Eastern Nara Circle.—The contour survey of the tract commanded by the Eastern Nara system was plotted and contours developed. The plotting of survey and levelling of the Mithrao and its branches were completed. The alignment of the Khipro canal and Samarjo branch was practically completed. Surveying, levelling and nicking out of the Nabisar branch and its distributaries and the Naokat branch was completed. Good progress was made with the erection of two dragline excavators which have since started work.

Lloyd Barrage Circle.—Nearly the whole area required for guide banks, township, works-yards, quarries and canals was taken over. On the right bank bungalows and quarters to provide residential accommodation for the various grades of officials are nearing completion. On the left bank construction of establishment and menials quarters has started. Two store sheds on the right bank were built and one on the left bank is under construction. Railways were laid on to connect quarries with works-yards, to carry materials, etc. Workshops were fully equipped with plant and machinery.

DECCAN AND GUJARAT

NORTHERN CIRCLE

The Hathmati and Khari Cut is the only important canal system in this Circle; other irrigation works are small tanks and are dependent upon local rains. The area irrigated by this system was 4,000 acres. The Wangroli, Savli and Saiat tanks filled partially while the Tranza-Nagramma remained empty; the total area irrigated on these tanks was about 1,600 acres. Due to less demand for water the area irrigated on the Muwalia tank was about 540 acres. Twenty million cubic feet of water was let out from the Wangroli and Matewal tanks to fill the Gomti tank at Dakor for domestic use. Drainage channels were maintained in good order and protective bunds protected culturable areas from the inroads of the sea.

CENTRAL CIRCLE

The main sources of irrigation in this Circle are the Ekruk tank, the Jamda and the Krishna canals. Besides providing water for irrigation, the Ekruk tank also meets the demands of the town of Sholapur, the mills and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Whether this tank with possible improvements for increasing its supply and having a restricted cultivation of sugarcane will suffice for both interests—agricultural and non-agricultural—or whether an additional storage reservoir will be

necessary is the problem that is at present engaging the attention of Government. The sixteen irrigation works in this Circle for which capital and revenue accounts are kept irrigated about 34,000 acres against 30,800 acres, the average of the previous triennium, the increase being due to good storage available on some works as also to a greater demand for water in the rabi season on account of scanty rainfall.

DECCAN IRRIGATION CIRCLE

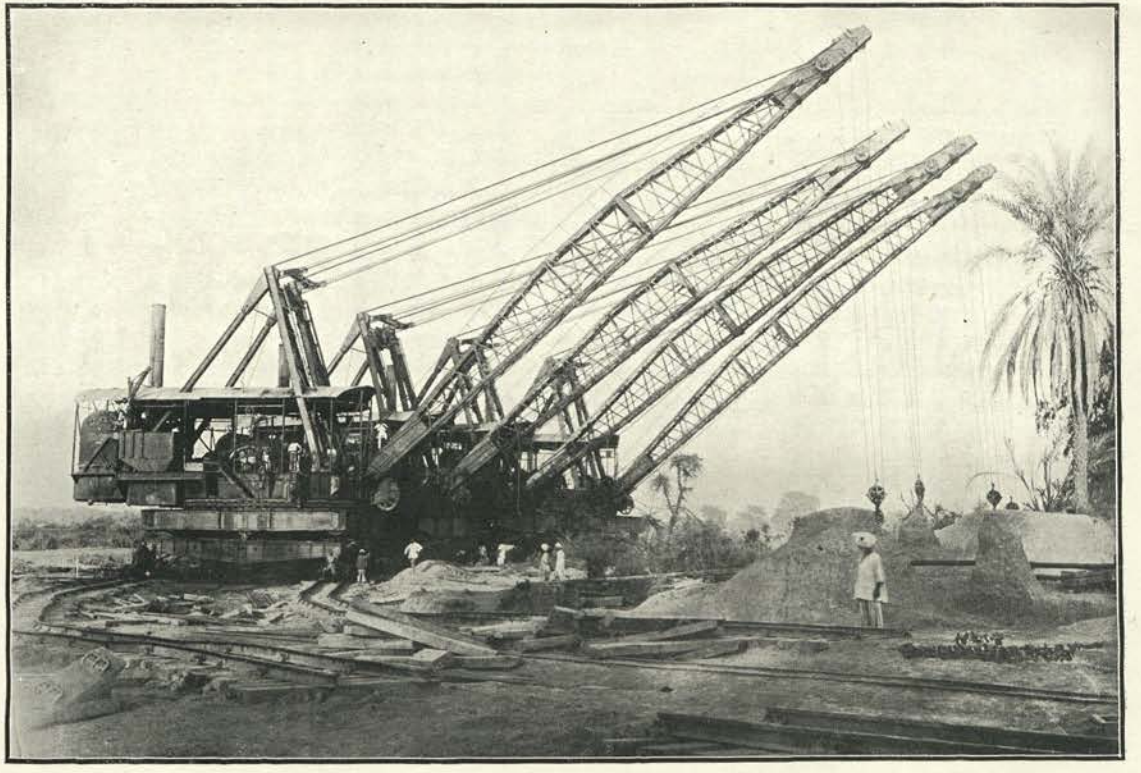
The largest irrigation works in the presidency proper are in this Circle.

The Nira Left Bank Canal is one of the pioneer irrigation works. It has benefited enormously a tract in the Poona District which in the past used to suffer severely from drought and famine owing to an extremely precarious rainfall. The scheme is also the most remunerative of the larger protective works now in operation. It is fed by Lake Whiting a reservoir constructed on the Yelwandi river at Bhatgar some 30 miles south of Poona. It is here that the Lloyd Dam, one of the largest masonry dams in the world, is being constructed. The Left Bank Canal is about 100 miles long and irrigated an area of 79,000 acres during the year.

The Mutha Canals.—There are two canals, the Right and Left Bank Mutha Canals. Both take off direct from Lake Fife, a storage reservoir of about 4,000 million cubic feet capacity on the Mutha river at Khadakvasla. Besides irrigating ordinary crops, the canals supply water to the city of Poona and the Cantonment and facilitate the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, fodder and sugarcane within easy reach of a large city and an important military centre. Over 20,000 acres were irrigated by the system during the year under report. In order to provide adequate protection to the area commanded detailed investigations for remodelling the system and lining a portion of the canal are being carried out.

The Mhaswad tank is formed by an earthen dam across the Man river and has a storage capacity of 2,600 million cubic feet. It irrigated about 5,500 acres.

The Godavari Canals.—This is the first of the important irrigation works undertaken in the Central Deccan for the protection of areas liable to famine and was completed in 1915-16 at a cost of a little over one crore of rupees. The system comprises (1) a storage reservoir called Lake Beale, on the Darna river, a tributary of the Godavari ; (2) a pick-up-weir at Nandur Madmeshwar on the Godavari river and (3) two canals, the Godavari Right and Left Bank Canals, which are 69 and 48 miles long respectively. The canals serve the Niphad, Sinnar and Yeola Talukas of the Nasik District and Kopargaon Taluka of the Ahmednagar District. Development of irrigation on the canals is up to expectations and population in the irrigated tract has increased. The area irrigated by the system was about 44,000 acres of which about 7,400 acres were under sugarcane. Preliminary investigations for an additional storage for the canals are being made.



Four machines ready to start on their journey to the site of work.

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The Girna and Kadwa River Works are two small irrigation systems in the Circle. They irrigated about 16,000 acres.

WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Pravara River Works system is designed to irrigate some of the lands most affected by famine in the Ahmednagar District. It comprises (1) a storage reservoir called Lake Arthur Hill on the Pravara river at Bhandardara 29 miles by road from Igatpuri, (2) a pick-up-weir at Ojhar and (3) two canals, the Pravara Right and Left Bank Canals, 33 and 48 miles long respectively. The masonry dam which is 270 feet high has reached the designed height. The dam is now ready with the exception of a few finishing touches. The whole scheme will be completed in the year 1925-26. As work progresses, irrigation is being extended. The area under irrigation during the year under report was about 37,000 acres, of which about 7,000 acres were under sugarcane.

The Nira Right Bank Canal will, when completed, be the largest in the Deccan. It will pass through the northern tract of the Satara Collectorate and the Phaltan State and will irrigate lands in the Malsiras, Sangola and Pandharpur talukas of the Sholapur Collectorate which are very liable to famine. The project comprises the construction of a large masonry dam at Bhatgar, the Lloyd dam referred to above which will submerge the existing one and supply both the Left and Right bank canals. The Right Bank Canal will end near Mohod in the Sholapur District and will be about 110 miles long. The works were started in 1912 and the rapid progress of construction in more recent years made it possible to commence irrigation during the year under review. The dam and the first 90 miles of the canal are expected to be completed in 1926. During the year under report about 3,000 acres of land were irrigated during the rabi season. The storage provided by the Lloyd dam at Bhatgar will not suffice for the full development of irrigation on the two canals and a complete scheme has been sanctioned called the Nira Valley Development Project. It consists of (1) the old Nira Left Bank Canal, (2) the Nira Right Bank Canal under construction, (3) widening and remodelling the Left Bank Canal and (4) building a new dam at Vir to supplement the supply from Bhatgar. The cost will be nearly 686 lakhs. The new works in this complete scheme are (3) and (4) and will cost about Rs. 136 lakhs. The remodelling of the Nira Left Bank Canal will be taken in hand first so as to take full advantage of the surplus storage at Bhatgar during the development of irrigation on the Right Bank Canal.

Investigation work.—The principal subjects under investigation in connection with the various problems relating to irrigation in the Deccan are (1) land drainage, (2) reclamation of salt lands, (3) soil physics, soil classification and observation of subsoil water levels, (4) hydraulic experiments, (5) use of effluent as manure, (6) improvement in distribution of

water, (7) block revision and (8) rain and river gauge work. Water-logged lands are drained and reclaimed by means of permanent drains combined in the first few years with the restoration of the physical texture of the soil by means of surface washing or 'leaching' of salts in salt-affected lands. Of 368 acres of land thus drained and reclaimed about 300 acres are now under successful irrigation. Efforts are being made to systematise the maintenance of open trenches and pipe lines. A staff has now been trained in soil classification and subsoil survey work and large areas have been classified. With a view to improving deflocculated soils various types of fertilizers were tried and afterwards percolation experiments were carried out in the laboratory to test the draining capacity of such soils. The outturn of cane on various types of soils was tested on various plots. Formation of blocks in suitable areas on the Godavari canals was taken up, the main principles in block selection being unitisation, concentration and not allowing blocks in shallow and uncommanded areas. Effluent has proved a very valuable form of manure and is greatly appreciated by the people. No deterioration in the physical condition of the soil is caused and the outturn is in no way inferior to that obtained by other methods of manuring. Meters, modules, etc., used on irrigation channels are tested at the Hydraulic Testing Station.

Other small irrigation works.—These include numerous bandharas or weirs across small streams to raise the level of water sufficiently high to command the lands to be irrigated. There are about 300 of these works in the Nasik District and a large number in West Khandesh. The supply of water in these bandharas being inadequate cultivation suffered. About Rs. 34,000 were spent on repairs, extensions and improvements compared to Rs. 37,000 the average of the preceding three years.

SOUTHERN CIRCLE

The Gokak canal in the Belgaum and the Dharma canal in the Dharwar Collectorates are the only important irrigation works in this Circle. Owing to scanty rainfall during the rabi season there was a shortage of water in the Gokak reservoir but the work of raising the Dhupdal weir by four feet has since been completed and it is expected that the additional supply obtained therefrom will meet the demands—both agricultural and non-agricultural (mills and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway). The supply in the Dharma canal was satisfactory. The total area irrigated by capital works was over 14,400 acres against 17,400 acres, the average of the previous three years.

RAILWAYS

The Railway lines in the Bombay Presidency are not administered by the Government of Bombay but are under the direct control of the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). The Railway Board also controls the railway lines in Indian States within the Bombay Presidency.

DEATH-RATE AT AGE-PERIOD

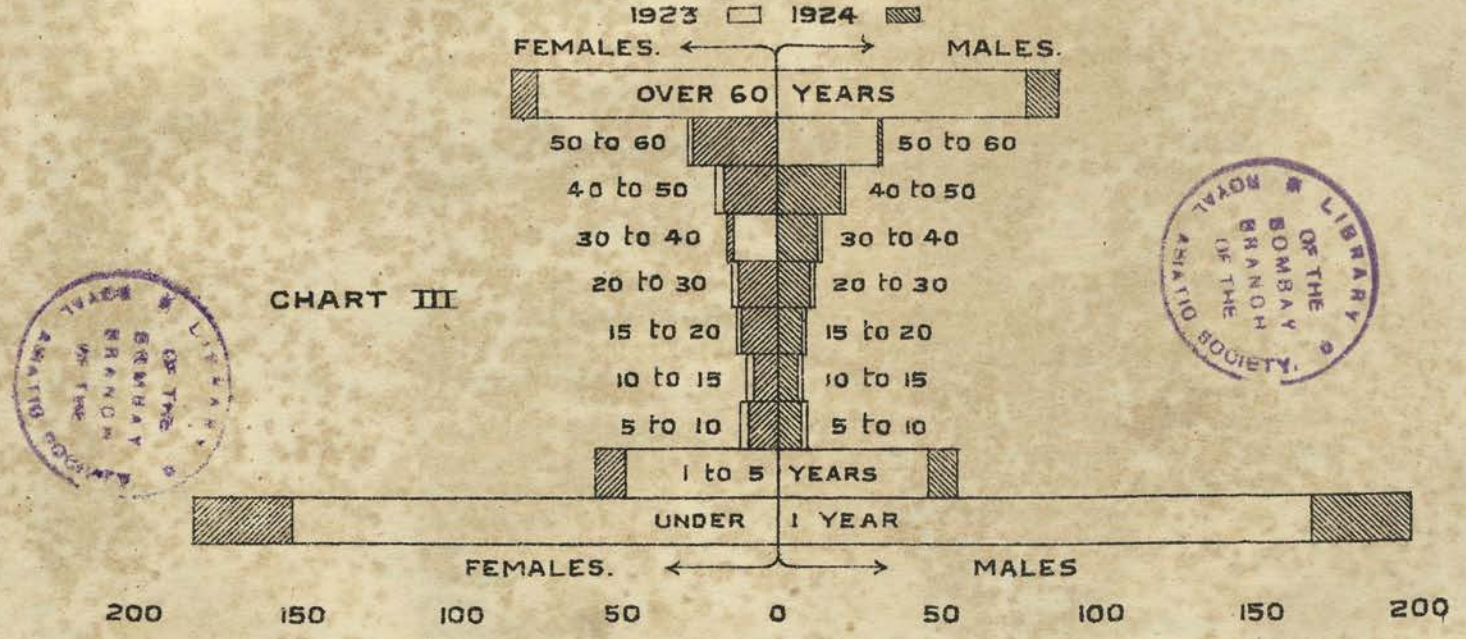


CHART III

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE

CHART VI- ANNUAL INCIDENCE OF DEATHS FROM EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

Scale figures represent actual deaths. For Plague & Cholera, figures at their log: intervals and only those above 1000 are shown.

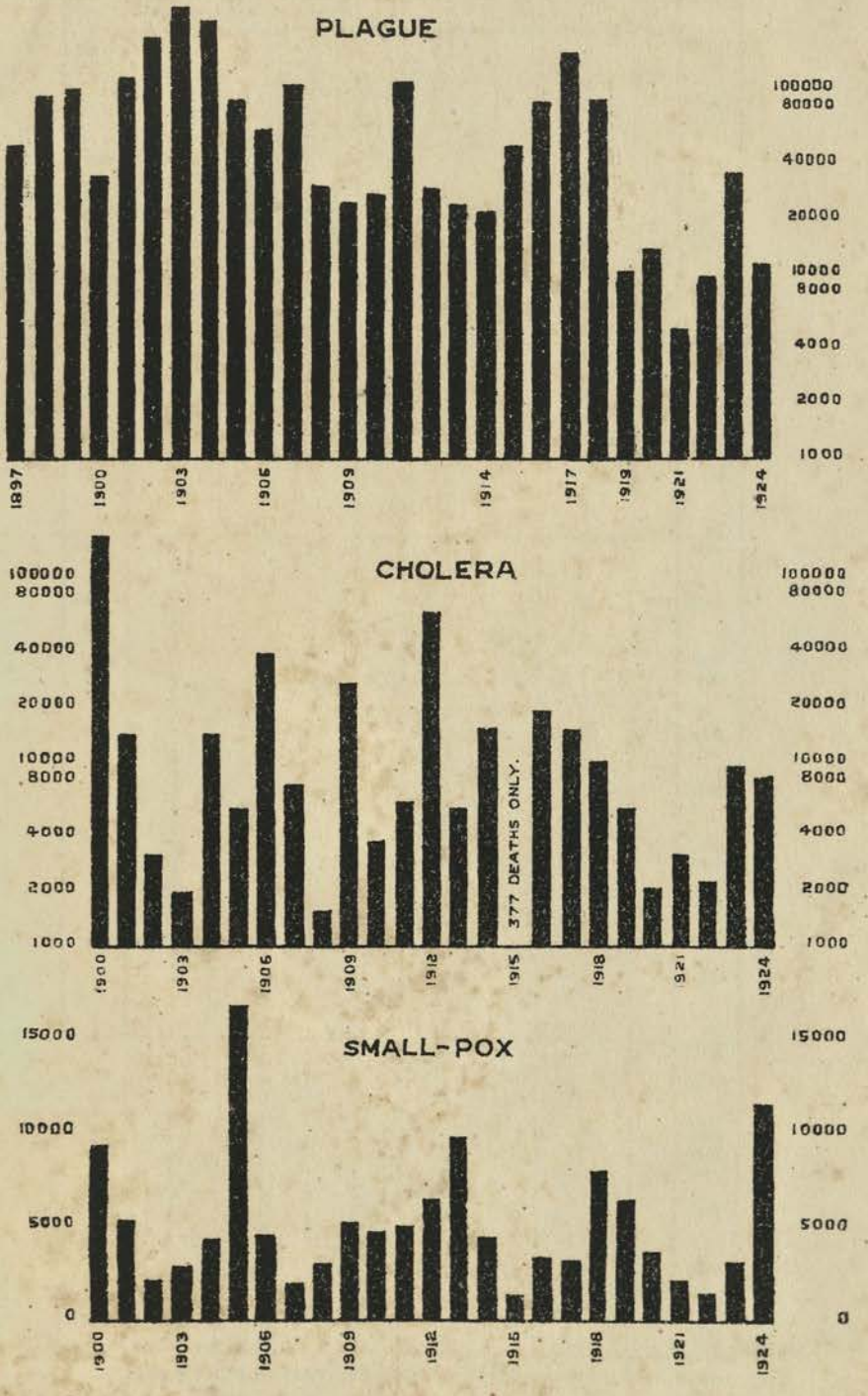
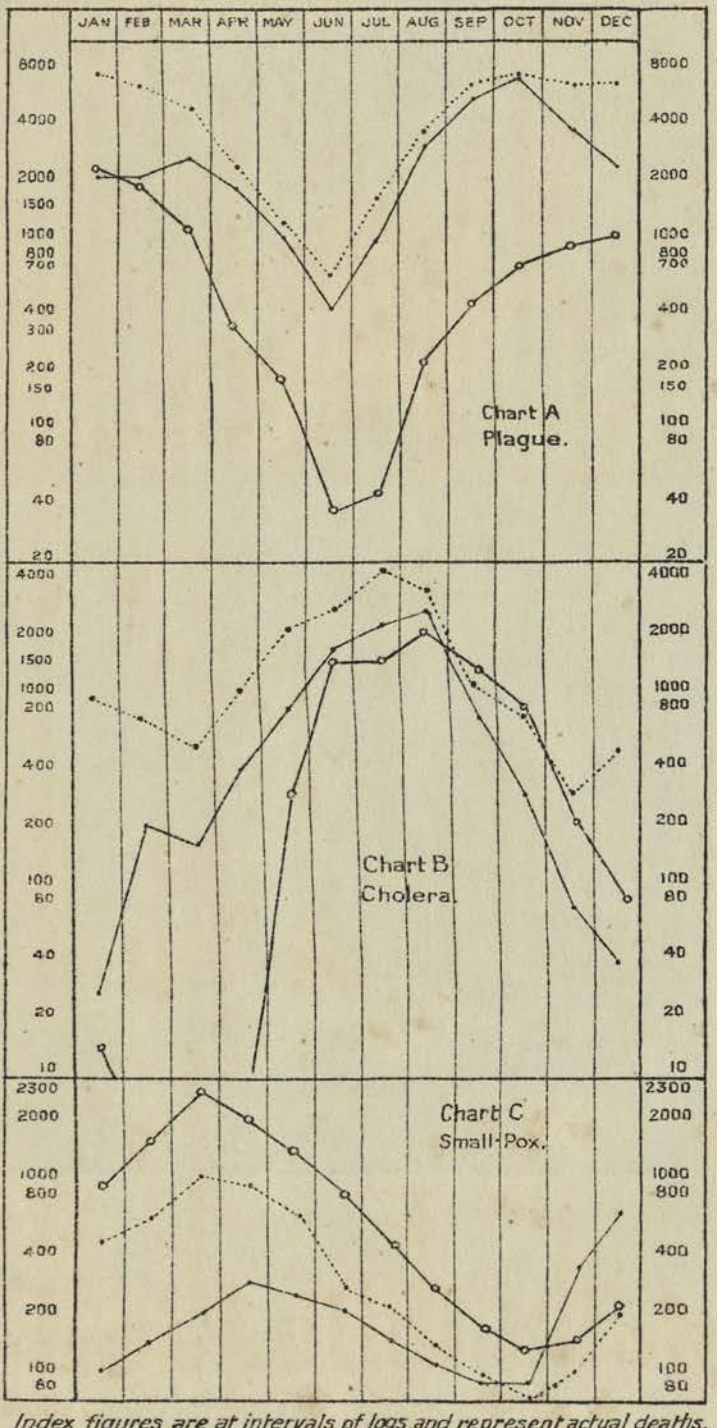


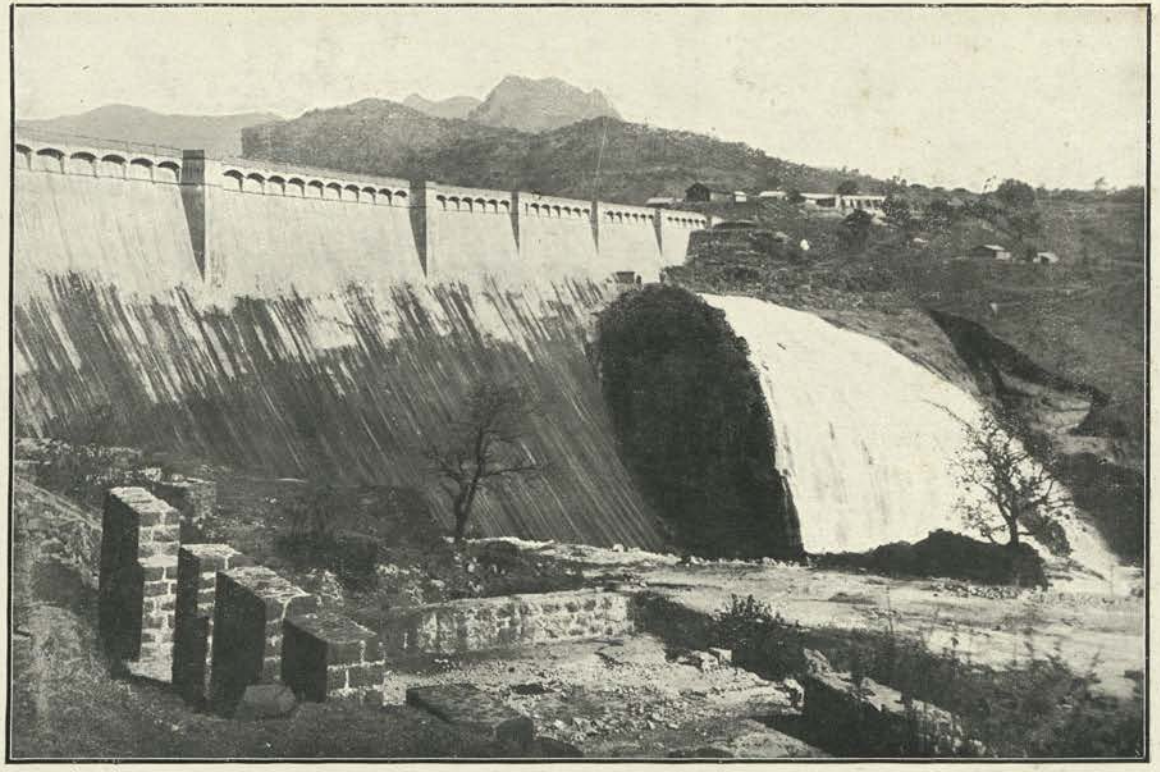
CHART VII

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF DEATHS FROM EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

1924 o——o 1923 •——• 1911-20 MEAN x–·–x



Index figures are at intervals of logs, and represent actual deaths.



Lake Arthur Hill, Bhandardara Dam. Downstream full view from south Bank.

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The following lines of railway aggregating 40·02 miles opened for traffic during the year under report brought up the total mileage to 5,595·02 miles :—

(i) Harbour Branch Overhead extension from Victoria Terminus to Kurla, 5′ 6″ gauge .. .. 9·25 miles.
(ii) Kothangad to Dhandhuka .. .. ..26·61 „
(iii) Vishvamitri to Goyagate (broad gauge siding) .. 4·16 „

On six other schemes work was in progress, the most important being :—

(i) Construction of the Pandharpur-Miraj extension, 2′ 6″ gauge.
(ii) Prachi Road-Una Railway, metre gauge ..15·50 miles.
(iii) Dholka-Dhandhuka Railway, metre gauge ..36·82 „
(iv) Kalamba-Jheria extension.. .. .. 2·44 „

Eleven surveys were completed or in progress during the year.

CHAPTER VIII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

THE health history of the Presidency from 1918, the year of pandemic influenza, judged by the total mortality figures, is one of steady progress up to 1922, the year of record low death-rate (23·61) and thereafter of gradual return to the low standard that normally obtained. Thus the death-rate figure for 1923, 25·89, and for the year under report, 27·63, indicate the return to the 1911—15 mean of 27·56. "If we look closely into the records of the year now under report," says the Director of Public Health in his annual report for 1924, "we find that the set-back is mainly due to two recurrent death factors, *viz.*, an unusually severe small-pox epidemic—an all-India feature of the year—and the re-appearance, after a seven-year interval, of fulminant malaria in Sind. Neither is indicative of a reduction from the none too high standard of general health that has been reached in 1922." The further increase in births for the year suggests in itself improvement in conditions but it brought along with it more than the usual increase in infant deaths that accompanies. Small-pox and Measles epidemics (continued from preceding year) are accountable for this added excess. Sixty-five per cent. of the increase in mortality over last year's total is in deaths of infants. The year proved unhealthy also for the other extreme of life— age 60 and over—in contrast with the age-periods 5—60 which actually shew a lower rate of death than in the year preceding.

The increase appears in nearly all of the general headings. Cholera deaths are less than the previous year but the outstanding favourable feature of 1924 is the great reduction in severity and mortality of Plague.

The number of registered births was 682,321, a slight increase over the figures for the previous year which was wholly recorded in the Gujarat Registration District, where the births—121,149—were the highest since 1917. The birth-rate for the Presidency proper, excluding Bombay City and Sind, was 39·91 and for Sind 22·05. For rural areas the birth-rate was 41·59 and for urban areas 29·77. Eight districts in the Presidency returned a birth-rate of 40 or more per thousand of the population, *viz.*, Broach (48·74), West Khandesh (46·91), Ahmednagar (46·46), East Khandesh (45·68), Nasik (44·58), Surat (42·50), Belgaum (40·75) and Panch Mahals (40·27). The highest birth-rate was again in Pathardi Petha in the Ahmednagar District (76·08); in South Salsette and Poona City taluka the figures were only 19·03 and 14·20 respectively. The births recorded in Bombay City were 21,457, equivalent to a birth-rate

Lloyd Barrage Circle. View of the Barrage Township at Sukkur.

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of 18·68. Of the registered births 354,631 were males and 327,690 females equal to a ratio of 18·50 and 17·10 per thousand of population. The number of deaths registered was 529,576 against 496,244 in 1923. The recorded death-rate for the whole Presidency worked out to 27·63, the death-rate for rural and urban areas in the Presidency as a whole being 26·79 and 31·09 respectively. The highest death-rates were returned by East Khandesh (38·53), Sholapur (33·38), Dharwar (33·17) and Bijapur (32·28) and the lowest by Bombay Suburban (17·75) and Panch Mahals (19·97). There were 130,439 deaths among infants under twelve months, a ratio of 191·17 per 1,000 registered births against 159·76 in 1923.

In Bombay City the registered deaths amounted to 38,417 as against 37,614 in 1923. The number of infantile deaths was 9,080 or a ratio of 423·17 per 1,000 registered births as against a rate of 413·91 in 1923. The Executive Health Officer, Bombay Municipality, writes :—

"In Bombay City the principal causes of the insanitary conditions which maintain the death-rate at a high level even in non-epidemic periods are the insufficiency of the water supply, the insufficiency of the sewers, the continuance of the basket privy system of conservancy, the density of houses and persons per acre and overcrowding of persons in rooms and tenements."

Some figures from the Annual Sanitary Report for 1924 are given below :—

Among the civil European population of 19,247—290 births and 274 deaths were recorded as against 318 and 232 respectively in 1923. The calculated birth-rate per mille for 1924 was 15·07 and the death-rate 14·24.

Anglo-Indians numbered 10,221, and 308 births and 242 deaths were registered against 222 and 218 respectively in 1923. The birth and death ratios per mille were 30·13 and 23·63 respectively in 1924.

Among the civil population of 19,165,614—682,321 births were registered—a slight increase (411) over the figures for the previous year but an increment of 27,340 on the decennial mean figure (654,981). It will be noted that the steady recovery from the set-back to the birth-rate that resulted from the influenza pandemic of 1918 is maintained. The birth-rate for the year for the Presidency as a whole was 35·60 against 35·58 in 1923. The rates recorded in other parts of India are :—

Bengal ..	.. 29·45	United Provinces	.. 34·72
Madras ..	.. 34·89	Punjab ..	.. 40·05
Bihar and Orissa	.. 35·7	Central Provinces	.. 44·18

For every 100 females 108·22 males were born. Still-births numbered 11,141 against 11,221 in 1923.

529,576 deaths were registered against 496,244 in 1923 and 691,042 the decennial mean. 108·37 males died for every 100 females. The death-rate was 27·63 per mille against 25·89 in 1923, while the decennial mean

was 35·44. For other parts of India the death-rates recorded are as follows :—

Madras ..	.. 24·53	Punjab ..	.. 43·43
Bengal ..	.. 25·86	United Provinces	.. 28·29
Bihar and Orissa	.. 29·1	Central Provinces	.. 32·59

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 7·97 per mille. The infant mortality rate for the Presidency was 191 per 1,000 registered births as against 160 in 1923. The male and female rates were 199 and 183 respectively as compared with 167 and 152 in the previous year.

In Bombay City, the birth and death-rates were 18·68 and 33·44 and the infant mortality rate being 423·17 per thousand registered births compared with 413·91 in 1923.

The male and female death-rates among Hindus were 29·87 and 29·88 per mille, among Mahomedans 20·98 and 21·94, among Parsis 19·58 and 19·75, among Christians 19·06 and 19·70 and among Jains 16·07 and 18·23, respectively.

Deaths among all Indians totalled 529,576, cholera being responsible for 8,236, small-pox for 11,152, plague for 9,214, fevers for 214,563, dysentery and diarrhœa for 28,926 and respiratory diseases for 91,103.

Contrast graphs of the monthly incidence of deaths under the chief epidemic and general causes for the year under report compared with 1923 and the mean of 1911—20 are shewn in the charts attached.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES

Cholera.—The number of deaths from cholera was 8,236 against 9,221 in 1923 and 13,294 the decennial mean. In the Presidency proper 16 out of 20 districts were affected. Sind which escaped the epidemic of the previous year reported deaths from all its 7 districts. The epidemic was at its worst during the months of July and August. Infection was to a great extent localised within the districts of East Khandesh, Nasik, Sholapur, Dharwar and Bijapur and 2,027, 643, 587, 1,648, and 1,352 deaths were recorded in them respectively.

Plague.—During the year the total number of deaths recorded for the Presidency was 9,214 equal to a death-rate of ·48 as contrasted with 33,741 with death-rate of 1·76 in 1923. 409 deaths were reported in Bombay City during the year. Aden was quite free from plague.

For a number of years now heavy incidence of plague has been confined to some 5 or 6 districts in the Deccan and for the year under report four of these contributed some 65 per cent. of the mortality. These are East Khandesh 2,115, Satara 2,087, Belgaum 975 and Dharwar 751. Ratnagiri district was responsible for 607 plague deaths and Karachi City for 119; otherwise the Konkan and Sind were almost free from the disease, Guzerat was entirely free as was Baroda State,

Another view of the Barrage Township.

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Small-pox.—The small-pox epidemic of 1924, foreshadowed in the previous year, has proved the most severe since 1905. The total of deaths was 11,152 equal to a death-rate per mille of 0·58 compared with 2,811 and 0·15 in 1923 and 3,104 and 0·16 the mean of the previous five years. All Collectorates reported deaths, the epidemic was severe in West and East Khandesh which recorded 1,620 and 1,680 deaths or ratios of 2·64 and 1·56 respectively. The Central Registration District was also very badly affected.

Urban areas suffered worse than rural, the death-rates being respectively 1·14 and 0·45. Of the 11,152 deaths from small-pox, 3,532 were infants under 1 year and 5,606 children between 1 and 10 years of age. March was the month of maximum epidemic severity as is usual with small-pox.

Small-pox may be said to be epidemic in the Presidency of Bombay. Incidence is, however by no means uniform in the different areas. On the death figures Bombay City stands highest in this respect at 0·48 per mille of population. The Western Registration District is but little behind at 0·44. The Central shews 0·21. The Southern Registration District shews 0·17, the same figure as for Sind, and Guzerat has the lowest incidence of small-pox death. It will be noted that 1900, 1905, 1909, 1913, 1918 and 1924 were the years of epidemic intensity, that is, at intervals of about 5 years.

Influenza in a very mild form prevailed in the Presidency. The disease is steadily declining. 578 deaths were recorded against 991 in the preceding year.

Malaria.—49,821 deaths were recorded in the whole Presidency against 34,957 in 1923, equal to a death-rate of 2·60 against 1·82.

The allocation of this increase was mainly to Sind which province suffered one of the fulminant or epidemic outbreaks that have appeared there at intervals of five to seven years, *e.g.*, 1905-1912-1917. High river, canal breaches and consequent extensive flooding and unusual precipitation of rainfall, preceded the epidemic as was the case in previous epidemic years. A notable feature was that while sickness was as general and as disturbing to economic life as in past epidemics, the mortality figures were comparatively little affected. This is in great part attributable to the generous distribution of quinine arrangements for which were begun as soon as the indications noted above were in evidence.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

On an average over 2½ million patients are treated every year in the dispensaries and hospitals of the Presidency which are maintained out of public, local or municipal funds, or receive aid from Government. The total number of institutions open on 31st December 1924 was 637 as compared with 785 in 1923. The decrease was due to about 130 private

dispensaries in Kathiawar States being omitted as the States are no longer under the control of the local Government.

The total number of patients treated was 2,754,000 as compared with 2,560,000 in the previous year, an increase of 194,000 or 7·0 per cent. Of the total treated 78,000 were in-patients and 2,676,000 were out-patients.

Of the indoor patients treated 48,928 were cured, 9,768 were relieved, 7,445 were discharged otherwise and 7,433 died. The ratio of deaths per cent. to the total treated was 9·4 as compared with 8·4 in the previous year.

The number of beds available was 6,872 against 6,596, the daily average number of patients occupying them being 3,499·2 as compared with 4,035·4 in the previous year. The decrease in the figures for in-patients was attributed to the prompt discharge of patients from the hospitals after cure or relief. The average daily attendance of out-patients was 26,656·0 against 27,275·2.

The total number of patients treated at female hospitals and dispensaries shows a steady rise, being 112,245 against 102,100 in 1923.

During the year nearly 115,000 surgical operations were performed.

At the Sassoon Hospitals, Poona, the Temulji Nariman Maternity Ward for Parsees with a sanitary annexe was completed and opened on 1st April 1924. The new maternity wards at Thana and Ahmednagar have been completed and will be soon taken into use.

The practice of employing private medical practitioners on the teaching staff of the Poona and Ahmedabad medical schools continued to work well, and the honorary principle was further extended to Hospitals in Bombay and larger hospitals in the mofussil.

The total income, exclusive of cash balance, amounted to Rs. 52½ lakhs of which Rs. 5¾ lakhs were contributed by local funds and Rs. 9 lakhs by municipal funds. The interest on invested capital yielded Rs. 74,000. Subscriptions amounted to Rs. 1½ lakhs, while of a total of over Rs. 6⅛ lakhs under miscellaneous receipts Rs. 2⅓ lakhs were realised as hospital fees and Rs. 2 lakhs were contributed by nursing associations.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 51¾ lakhs, an increase of Rs. 1¾ lakhs on the previous year. The net cost was Rs. 49 lakhs.

SANITATION

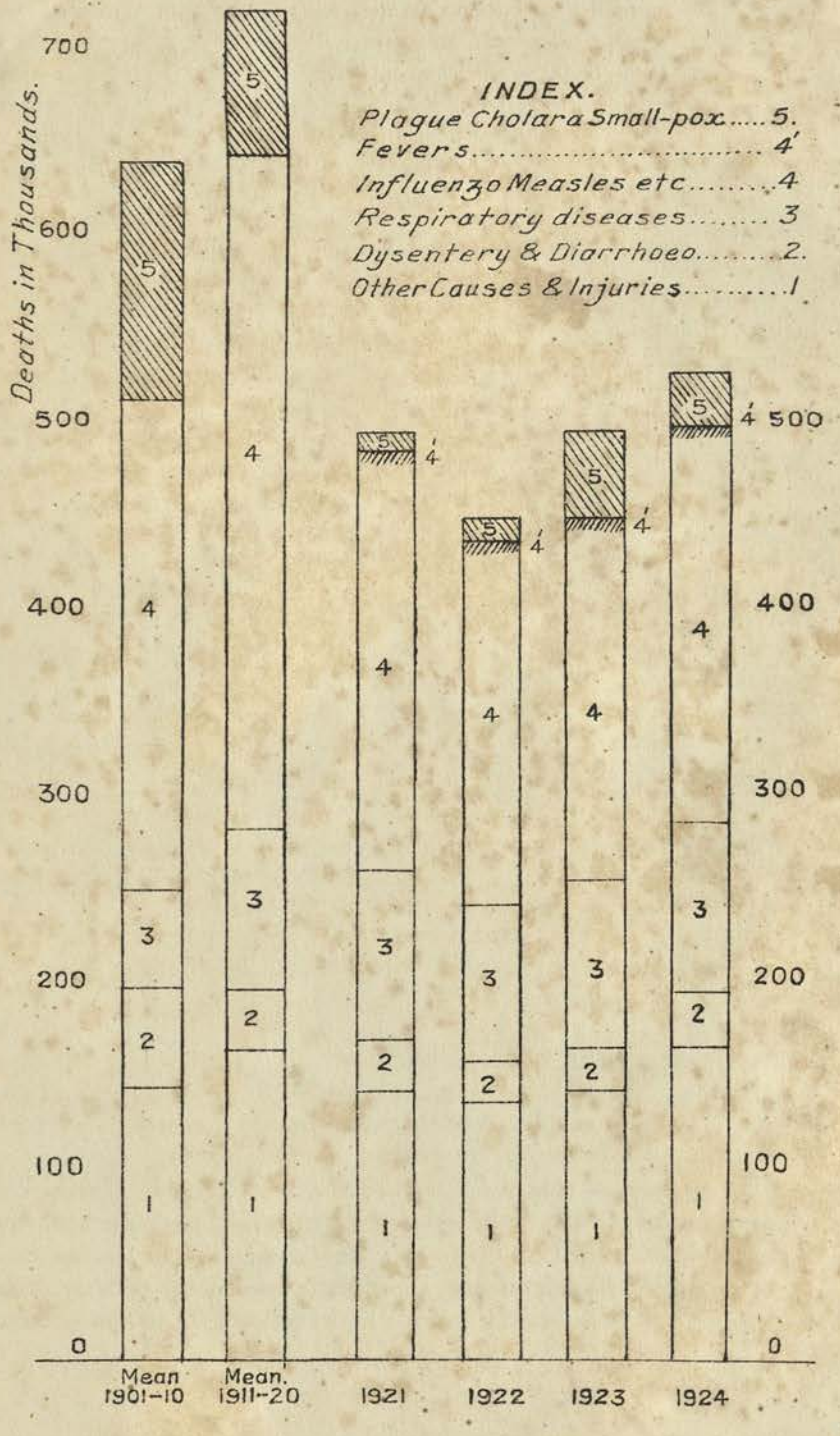
There were 156 municipalities with an aggregate population of 2,670,000. Their total income amounted to Rs. 195 lakhs. Nearly 76 lakhs were spent on the improvement of water supplies, drainage, conservancy and other public health requirements.

The aggregate income of 27 District Local Boards and 222 Taluka Local Boards amounted to Rs. 161¾ lakhs. Nearly 8 lakhs were spent on works connected with public health.

Two hundred and twenty Panchayats under the Bombay Village Panchayats Act IX of 1920, and 314 Sanitary Committees under the

Chart I

DEATHS IN 1924 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.



Bombay Village Sanitation Act of 1889 were working during the year. In addition there were 22 Notified Area Committees and one Sanitary Board.

There are two Public Health Laboratories at present working, one in Poona and the other at Karachi. Ahmedabad Municipality has now a separate laboratory of its own in charge of a qualified Medical Officer.

Pilgrim Centres.—The chief day of the Ashadhi Fair at Pandharpur fell on 13th July 1924. The number of pilgrims who attended the fair was 1,70,000. Steps were taken to control cholera in Sholapur District and Pandharpur Taluka in particular, before the fair. Pandharpur itself was free from cholera until the fair day. But from the commencement of the fair to the end of July, there were 64 attacks and 47 deaths. Of them 43 and 26 were recorded while the fair lasted. The new reservoir of 6 lakhs capacity was in use for supply. Government sanctioned Rs. 10,500 for the sanitary arrangements at Kurduwadi Junction pending the decision of the question of the permanent responsibility for sanitary arrangements there for pilgrim passengers to Pandharpur.

Kartiki Fair in November, attendance over 1,10,000, and the smaller Pandharpur fairs, the Chaitri, and Kartiki Festivals at Alandi, the fair at Shingnapur were also catered for in respect of sanitary and preventive arrangements under the guidance of Public Health Staff.

Yellamma, Gokarn and Yamnur are the three important pilgrim centres in the Southern Registration District. The total number of pilgrims who attended these fairs was 125,000, 20,000 and 15,000 respectively.

In Guzerat, festivals are held at Vantha in Dholka (30,000 pilgrims), at Shukaltirtha near Broach (35,000) and a large fair "Manekthari Punam" in Dakore. The services of the Inspectors of Sanitation and Vaccination were placed at the disposal of the District officials whenever it was found necessary.

There were no outbreaks of infectious diseases nor were these fairs responsible for any epidemic elsewhere.

VACCINATION

During the year over 623,000 persons were primarily vaccinated and 114,000 persons re-vaccinated against 632,000 and 112,000 in the previous year. The primary vaccination work showed decrease while there was increase in re-vaccination work. Of the primary vaccinations 88·83 per cent. were successful, ·25 per cent. was unsuccessful and the results could not be ascertained in the remaining 10·92 per cent. of the cases. The percentage of successful re-vaccinations was 47·95. 76 per cent. of the persons vaccinated were infants under one year of age and 21 per cent. between the ages of one and six years. No ill effects after vaccination were reported during the year.

The year was one of wide-spread small-pox throughout India. The epidemic began towards the end of 1923 and was active during the year

under report. All Registration Districts returned a large number of deaths.

A special vaccination campaign among school children in municipal towns and Taluka headquarters was carried out in Guzerat. The percentage of unprotected children was 5·34 against 5·63. The Municipal District of Dhulia suffered very severely from the epidemic of 1923-24 and the decision of the municipality to adopt the provisions of the Bombay District Vaccination Act of 1892 has received the approval of Government. The Act has been also lately introduced in the Cantonment areas of Ahmednagar and Belgaum.

1,177,500 doses of lymph were issued from the Vaccine Institute, Belgaum, as against 1,185,000 the previous year.

The cost of vaccination came to Rs. 6,15,000, each successful case costing Re. 1-1-2.

THE HAFFKINE INSTITUTE

The Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory, which is now designated as the Haffkine Institute continued its activities in various branches of research and treatment including an anti-rabic Unit, a biochemical Unit, and a pharmacological Unit for the study of indigenous drugs. Since 1896 over 25 millions of doses of plague prophylactic have been issued. In 1924, says the annual Report of the Director, the output was nearly one and half million doses, an amount which has been only twice exceeded in the history of the Laboratory and then by very small amounts.

Research work on the methods for improving the vaccine was continued throughout the year. Dr. Naidu, Assistant Surgeon Avari, and Captain Malone have introduced a method for estimating the immunity of rats to plague by testing the bactericidal power of the blood. The rats received during the year numbered 702,007 of which 326,291 were dissected and 3,774 (1·16 per cent.) were found plague infected.

Over 1,100 persons came to the Institute for anti-rabic treatment and 413 persons for advice. Those who went through the complete treatment numbered 587 and of these only 7 died. The number of persons who underwent the treatment was less by 258 than the previous year. The decrease was due to the opening of the five new centres during the year. The treatment is now available at Ahmedabad, Ahmednagar, Belgaum, Hyderabad (Sind), Jalgaon, Karachi, Karwar, Nasik, Poona, Ratnagiri and Sholapur. The cost of a complete treatment of 14 daily doses has been reduced to Rs. 10.

"The Pharmacological Unit (for the study of indigenous drugs) was started during the year," continues the Director, "and we were fortunate in securing the services of the Rev. Father Caius, S.J., F.L.S., M.S., C.I., who has already gained a reputation as a chemist and pharmacologist by his researches on quinine, antivenine, anthelmintics and other similar

Alandi Fair—Pilgrims taking baths in the ' Chakratirtha '.

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subjects. The new Unit was opened on June 1st and on June 14th Father Caius was joined by Dr. Mhaskar who came to replace Dr. Tarkhud. These two officers have already done some interesting work on the therapeutic value of indigenous drugs, viz., Holarrhena antidysenterica, Butea frondosa and Gymnema sylvestre. The first named appears to be a valuable remedy in certain forms of dysentery and diarrhœa and the second yields a substance toxic to round worms."

" In these days much interest is being shown especially by Indian politicians in the indigenous systems of medicine which have been in vogue for many centuries and claims are being made for their restitution under Government patronage. Whatever one may think of such proposals, all must welcome research work such as is being and will be done in this Unit on the therapeutic possibilities of indigenous drugs, so that what is good of the old systems may be brought to light and incorporated into the more enlightened methods of the West."

" The Biochemical Unit is a still newer venture and was only started on December 15th when the new equipment arrived from Europe. Here again Bombay is indebted to the Indian Research Fund Association which has granted sufficient funds (Rs. 73,000) to enable the Institute to run the Unit with a modified staff for three years. To this the Bombay Government have added Rs. 18,000 for the three years."

" Backed by Father Caius from the purely chemical side and by Dr. Hamilton Fairley from the medical and biochemical aspect, work has already begun into the biochemistry of sprue. The problems of this mysterious disease are being approached from the biochemical side in relation to the fat metabolism of the intestinal contents, the secretive activity of the digestive juices, the fat, protein and calcium content of the blood and the functional efficiency of the stomach, liver, pancreas and kidney. It is hoped that in course of time much light may be thrown on the causation and treatment of sprue by these researches."

An interesting feature which serves as an " advertising department " of the Institute is the collection of snakes. A number of visitors of great and lesser renown come to see the process of venom extraction from living cobras and vipers which is still counted as one of the " attractions " of Bombay. The venom so extracted is sent to Kasauli where the immune serum known as antivenine is prepared and broadcasted throughout India for the treatment of snake-bite. On the Educational side the institute prepares lantern slides, wall pictures and cinema films and arranges demonstrations at stalls for exhibition purposes of such subjects as malaria, anti-rabic work, plague or snake-bite. There has been a big demand throughout the year for these exhibits for Baby Week and other educational exhibitions, and sets of lantern slides have been supplied to Government and Public agencies in many parts of India. There is a good collection of scientific cinema films including the recently imported film

on Malaria produced by the Rockefeller Foundation and these are issued on loan to certain selected authorities in Bombay City and the immediate vicinity.

Referring to the further lines of development, the Director emphasises the need of a Mobile Unit. " Some organisation of this nature is required which shall form a link between the Laboratory and the Public Health Administration. If such a unit existed, it could be sent at a few hours' notice to investigate and deal with an epidemic in any part of the Presidency. In conjunction with the Public Health authorities, it would bear the same relation to an epidemic conflagration that a fire-engine has to a fire and would be held in readiness to proceed immediately to the site of a disease outbreak. The Madras Government has recently established such a unit which has already done excellent work. Mobile units were a great feature in the Great War, and there is every reason to suppose that they would be as valuable in peace as they proved to be in War. A specially selected Indian medical man and two subordinates would be all that would be required, as the equipment would be supplied by the parent laboratory."

The total budgetted cost for 1925-1926 of the Institute is Rs. 4,43,000 of which Rs. 2,06,000 are paid by other Governments and various public bodies.

VETERINARY

" The outstanding feature of the year has been the widespread epidemics of Rinderpest. It is some years since the Presidency has experienced so serious an outbreak and the resources of the Department were taxed to the utmost in combating it," observed the Superintendent of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bombay Presidency, in his report for 1924-25. The Superintendent and Acting Superintendent paid several visits to the most seriously affected quarters to organise the work. A special series of lectures to village officers and leading Ryats was undertaken in which advice on preventive measures and early reporting were given. The number of inoculations performed is the highest ever recorded in this Presidency. Inoculations were however only undertaken in about 50 per cent. of the outbreaks attended. Many more would have been done had more men been available. Owing to the large number of villages attacked, many had perforce to be visited late and many outbreaks were, in addition, reported too late for the members of the staff to give any assistance. On the whole, however, reporting was fairly good.

In the whole of the Presidency proper 1,950 villages were reported to have suffered from this disease. There were 77,478 attacks and 36,564 deaths as compared with 5,166 deaths last year. Dharwar suffered most heavily, having a total mortality of 10,347. Nasik recorded 5,947 deaths, Kanara 3,978, and Kolaba 2,906.

" This outbreak has shown," says the Superintendent, " the necessity for a larger mobile force of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons than we have at

Alandi Fair—View of the pilgrims encamped on the river side from the bridge over the Indrayani River.

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present and the necessity for some form of legislation to deal with cattle disease. As most of the men employed are in charge of Stationary Dispensaries, it is difficult to transfer them from their own districts for special work, and the only extra hands available are reserves. The number of these is too small for the purpose."

"A very large number of people are anxious to have their cattle protected against the disease, but so long as a certain number refuses to do so, the disease is kept alive in the villages and it is necessary to re-inoculate. This has been done in many villages, but it increases the cost of dealing with an outbreak. Compulsory inoculation therefore appears to be indicated."

Foot and mouth disease did not occur to the extent reported last year. Outbreaks occurred in all the Districts of the Presidency but Kanara and Dharwar probably suffered most, the disease prevailing simultaneously with Rinderpest. 24,384 cases and 199 deaths were reported as against 51,412 cases and 348 deaths in the previous year.

The total outbreaks of all diseases dealt with by the Veterinary Staff during the year numbered 3,021, involving 109,375 attacks and 40,873 deaths. The previous year recorded 70,742 attacks and 11,457 deaths.

The large increase in the number of castrations is worthy of mention. Since the introduction of the Burdizzo Method of castration, the instrument has become increasingly popular. There are now 51 instruments supplied to dispensaries and as some Boards are loath to incur the necessary expenditure for supplying them, the Report suggests that, in view of the amount of cruelty saved by this method of castration, Government should either undertake the supply of more instruments, or advance money to the Boards for their purchase.

In Sind Rinderpest and Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia which are usually responsible for most of the deaths occurring in cattle were much less prevalent during the year. The total deaths from these diseases were 988 as compared with 3,381 last year. The total mortality among cattle in Sind was 3,558.

CHEMICAL ANALYSERS

The work of the Chemical Analysers to Government in Bombay and Sind is connected with the protection of the public either by the examination of the data relating to crime or suspected crime or by the examination of food-stuffs, water, etc. The medico-legal cases investigated during the year in Bombay totalled 687, of which 329 were cases of suspected human poisoning. Of the latter, poison was detected in 165 cases involving the poisoning of 179 persons, 97 of whom died.

In the Laboratory at Karachi 192 medico-legal cases were investigated, 59 of them being cases of suspected human poisoning.

The examination of stains for blood or other evidences of crime is also an important part of the work of the Chemical Analysers.

Four hundred and thirteen such cases were examined during the year in Bombay and Karachi.

WILD ANIMALS AND VENOMOUS SNAKES

During the year 1924, 23,383 snakes and 6,190 wild animals were destroyed as compared with 22,738 snakes and 7,722 wild animals in the previous year. Ratnagiri District alone was responsible for the destruction of 1,818 wild animals and 12,175 snakes, while Kanara was responsible for 817 wild animals and 500 snakes, Kolaba 767 wild animals and 156 snakes. In Dharwar 1,151 wild animals were destroyed.

The total number of persons killed by snake bite numbered 1,124 and by wild animals 68. In Ratnagiri District alone 240 persons were killed by snake bite, in Thana 138 and in Satara 83. The total mortality shows a net decline of 57.

Tigers were responsible for 2 deaths in each of the Districts of Panch Mahals, Thana and West Khandesh and 1 each in Dangs and Ratnagiri District.

Brunton's lancet was made use of in 31 cases in the Northern Division out of which 26 were cured.

MENTAL HOSPITALS

There are six Mental Hospitals in the Presidency and the number of patients treated in them was 2,002, an increase of 69 over the previous year, the number of admissions being 535. 276 of the inmates were Criminal Insanes. During the year 285 patients were discharged recovered, 41 improved, 32 not improved and 25 were discharged otherwise.

Of the persons admitted during the year, 28 were Europeans and Eurasians, 25 Indian Christians, 340 Hindus and 142 Mahomedans. Domestic servants and labourers formed the largest number of admissions followed by cultivators, clerks, mendicants, merchants and traders. The great majority of them were between 20 and 40 years of age.

In those cases where the causes of insanity could be ascertained the abuse of intoxicants was the chief cause of lunacy; mental stress, mental instability and toxic diseases coming next in order.

There were 120 deaths against 98 in 1923. The increase was contributed mainly by the Mental Hospitals at Naupada and Yeravda and was attributed at the latter hospital to the admission of several moribund cases and deaths among chronic cases rather than to the occurrence of any acute or infectious disease and at the former to the large number of deaths from bowel and lung complaints.

The net expenditure on Hospitals amounted to Rs. 6 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 40,000 over the previous year.

Apart from domestic work in the institutions, gardening, weaving and cane work form the chief occupations for males and sewing, knitting, grinding corn, etc., for the females.

Alandi Fair—Lady Volunteers from the Seva Sadan, Poona, assisting the pilgrims in securing a *darshan*.

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ACWORTH LEPER ASYLUM, MATUNGA

The Acworth Leper Asylum was founded in the year 1890 by H. A. Acworth, Esqr., C.I.E., I.C.S., who was then the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, from public donations, and it provides accommodation for the segregation of pauper Indian lepers. It is in charge of a Resident Superintendent who works under the orders of the Board of Management, consisting of 20 members, of whom 3 are appointed by Government, 5 by the Municipal Corporation of Bombay and 12 are co-opted annually.

The cost of maintaining lepers who are not residents of Bombay is borne by Government, and that of Bombay lepers by the Municipality. The other sources of income are the garden and the sewage farm and occasional donations.

The asylum accommodates 364 lepers, 222 males and 142 females. The total number of persons treated in the Asylum during the year 1924 was 563, of whom 380 were males, 175 females, 4 male children and 4 female children. 390 were Hindus, 100 Indian Christians and 73 Musulmans.

Ninety-eight deaths occurred in the Asylum during the year.

Lepers who wish to work are provided with employment in the garden or the sewage farm and are given a small allowance which they use in buying small luxuries from a co-operative shop which is run for them on the Asylum premises.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,14,600.

CHAPTER IX

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES

DURING the past decade the policy of Government has been to give more and more power to Local Bodies and, where control is exercised, to use that control solely for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the tax-payers, especially where Government funds have been lent for local purposes. This policy is especially noticeable in the case of municipalities. In Bombay City the powers of the Corporation are practically uncontrolled, while in the mofussil Government control has been to a very considerable extent relaxed. There are in the Presidency 33 City Municipalities and 123 Town Municipalities. The distinction between the two is largely a matter of population. No town with a population of less than 15,000 can be declared a City Municipality, but when a town is so declared it can appoint a Chief Executive Officer with extensive responsibilities and wide powers as defined by the Bombay District Municipal Act of 1901. These Municipalities may also appoint a Health Officer and an Engineer and their rules and bye-laws are sanctioned by Government. In the case of town municipalities this sanction is given by the Commissioner. During the last ten years ten town municipalities have been raised to the status of city municipalities, and all now have a Chief Officer. All permanent municipalities, with a few exceptions in Sind, must have not less than half its members elected and not more than one-half of the non-elected may be salaried servants of Government. In 1920 the popular composition of the municipalities was largely increased by a widening of the franchise and the cutting down of the nominated councillors to one-fifth of the total. Moreover all Presidents were elected. In 1921-22 the municipal franchise was put upon the same basis as that for the local Legislative Council and communal representation to Mahomedans was allowed in all municipalities.

The principal duties of municipalities lie in the direction of the provision and maintenance of public and utility services such as roads, dispensaries, water supply, sanitation and education. They are allowed to raise funds both by direct and indirect taxation. Moreover when the circumstances of a case require it and the Local Body is prepared to make adequate efforts to help itself, Government renders assistance both by loans and grants-in-aid (subject to a limit of 50 per cent. of the cost in the latter case) towards the cost of big undertakings. By this means Ahmedabad,

Poona, Lonavla, Nasik, Jalgaon, Karad, Sholapur, Bijapur, Dharwar, Hubli, Hyderabad, Sukkur and other towns have been provided with an improved water supply and Ahmedabad and Poona with a complete system of underground drainage. In some cases where the question of good water supply is of more than local importance water-works have been constructed entirely at Government expense. Pandharpur, a great pilgrim centre, is a case in point. Town improvements and the opening out of congested and insanitary areas are other objects for which Government makes liberal grants. Considerable improvements in the sanitary services of urban areas have been brought about by Government's assistance. Municipalities with a population of 15,000 and over may appoint Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors and Government bears two-thirds of the cost of the Health Officers and one-half of the cost of Sanitary Inspectors.

Municipalities are now allowed practically a free hand in the matter of the selection and appointment of their Chief Officers.

The total number of municipalities in 1924-25 declined from 156 to 155 owing to the abolition of the Kharda Municipality in the Ahmednagar district. Of these, 33 were city municipalities. All the municipalities in the Northern Division, with the exception of Umreth, Nadiad, Borsad and Bulsar, had elected presidents. The administration of the Surat Municipality was in the hands of the Committee of Management, composed of nominated members only, till 15th February 1925, from which date the municipality was re-established. The municipalities of Mahableshwar and Satara Suburban continued to consist wholly of nominated members.

In Sind the municipalities of Nasarpur and Sehwan in the Hyderabad and Larkana districts respectively were re-constituted during the year on a four-fifths elective basis and were given the rights to elect their own presidents.

The aggregate ordinary income of the municipalities excluding items under the head " Extraordinary and Debt " rose from Rs. 195 lakhs to Rs. 222¾ lakhs. All the Divisions showed increases in income. The incidence of taxation was highest at Karachi (Rs. 16-4-3) and lowest at Betavad (Re. 0-8-0). The aggregate expenditure including items under the head " Extraordinary and Debt " amounted to Rs. 304½ lakhs, an increase of 44½ lakhs over the previous year. The various municipalities now have loan debts amounting to nearly Rs. 110¾ lakhs, the Ahmedabad Municipality alone being responsible for Rs. 29·90 lakhs. Nearly Rs. 3·20 lakhs were paid off during the year.

Government, while reviewing the working of the municipalities in the Bombay Presidency during 1923-24, remarked as follows :—

" Government note with satisfaction that the year under report was on the whole one of fair progress so far as the general administration

of municipalities in the Presidency, including Sind, is concerned. The ordinary expenditure was, generally speaking, equitably distributed in satisfaction of the various public requirements. Cases, however, of maladministration are noticeable in certain municipalities as will be evident from the recent dissolution of the Kurla Municipality and supersession of the Nandgaon Municipality. In the opinion of Government, this state of affairs is due to the want of proper control on the part of the presidents and vice-presidents who not infrequently are unable to realise their own responsibility and to exercise proper control over their subordinates. The existence of parties and factions among municipal councillors is another unfortunate feature and the spirit engendered by these often vitiates and hampers municipal administration. A third regrettable feature is the contumacy on the part of the councillors themselves in the payment of their taxes in view of which the heavy arrears of municipal dues are not surprising. For the recovery of these arrears, increased vigilance on the part of the collecting staff and a freer use of coercive processes and penalties are the most effective remedies. The reluctance on the part of municipal bodies to enhance taxation, particularly direct taxation, still continues to retard progress. The tendency to seek salvation along the line of least resistance by concentrating on indirect taxation is still strong as will be evident from the fact that the direct taxation during the year under report yielded only 55·8 per cent., *i.e.*, a little over one-half of the total income from municipal taxes and rates. The conservancy services are still partly supported from general revenues. The unsatisfactory financial position of many of the municipalities—verging on actual bankruptcy in some cases—and their inability to provide even for their irreducible current necessities are the natural result of this state of things. Government hope that this unsatisfactory position is but a passing phase and that members of municipalities will commence to realize more fully their corporate duty and responsibility, without which no proper administration is possible."

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY.

The Bombay City Municipality has an income considerably larger than all the 155 Municipalities in the rest of the Presidency and Sind combined. During the year 1924-25 its revenue amounted to Rs. 302 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 23 lakhs over the previous year. The principal increases were under General Tax (11⅓ lakhs), Town Duties (2½ lakhs), Interest and profit on investments of Surplus Loan and other balances (3 lakhs), Water Tax (4 lakhs), Wheel Tax (1¼ lakhs) and Halalkhore Tax (Rs. 3½ lakhs). The incidence of taxation per head increased from Rs. 20-6-3 to Rs. 21-12-0 for the year. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 300 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 11 lakhs over the previous year. Loans on capital account were taken up to the amount of Rs. 150

lakhs from Government, Rs. 146¾ lakhs from the public and Rs. 4,80,000 from the Western India Turf Club and Rs. 335½ lakhs were spent on loan works. The loan liabilities of the Corporation stood at Rs. 1,743 lakhs. Against this debt, the total sinking fund invested is Rs. 296 lakhs, leaving a net liability of 1,447 lakhs. The revenue and capital assets of the Municipality amounted to Rs. 2,627 lakhs and the liabilities to 2,094 lakhs, a surplus of 533 lakhs.

Several important works were completed during the year including additional accommodation at the Municipal Offices, a Primary School at DeLisle Road, and a Fire Brigade Station at Frere Road. The work of connecting the Western approach of the Currey Road overbridge to the southern approach of the DeLisle Road overbridge was in progress and the extension of the western approach to the Victoria Road overbridge was completed and the work of widening Victoria Road was in progress. The widening of Church Gate Street and the construction of the roads embodied in the Scheme were completed and the reconstituted plots have all been built upon. Dalal street was opened to traffic and the Government property known as the Central Book Depôt was acquired for the widening of Apollo Street. Satisfactory progress was made during the year with the Mahim Development Scheme. The road from Lady Jamsetji Road to Mahim Station is nearing completion.

The total rainfall at Tansa, Vehar and Tulsi Lakes, from which the City derives its water supply, was less than the average, while at Powai Lake the rainfall was in excess. Powai and Tansa Lakes overflowed during the monsoon. Good progress was made with the extensions and alterations to the John Hay Grant Reservoir, Mazagaon. The new high level reservoir was completed and the work of increasing the storage capacity of the old reservoir is now nearing completion. The year under report was one of marked activity in all works comprised in the Tansa Completion Scheme and creates a record for progress in the annals of the Corporation.

The Fire Brigade received 606 calls, of which 231 were false alarms. The total damage by fires amounted to Rs. 15¼ lakhs against Rs. 35¾ lakhs in the preceding year.

The total number of deaths during the year rose from 37,959 to 38,774 giving a death-rate of 31·27 per 1,000. The birth-rate was 17·61 and the number of births was 21,838. The rate of infant mortality was 419 per 1,000. Measures for the reduction of infant mortality were continued during the year.

Markets and Slaughter Houses brought in a revenue of Rs. 11¼ lakhs. Unwholesome food was destroyed to the amount of 576,478 lbs.

There were 37,800 pupils in 337 schools against 40,000 in the previous year. Two new schools were opened and three private schools taken over from their former proprietors, while one school

was amalgamated with another. The total expenditure amounted to nearly Rs. 23½ lakhs. During the year Government accorded their sanction to the scheme for the introduction of free and compulsory education in F and G wards of the City. The arrangements for the medical inspection of children were continued during the year and suggestions for the improvement of the existing system are under the consideration of the Corporation.

LOCAL BOARD ADMINISTRATION

Every Local Board is presided over by a president who is elected from amongst the non-official members of the board. In addition a vice-president is also similarly elected. The funds at the disposal of the boards consist chiefly of the local fund cess on Land Revenue, but there are other sources of revenue, such as proceeds of ferries, tolls on Local Fund roads, quarrying fees, etc. The boards have also the power to levy, with the sanction of the Commissioner, such local taxes as a local authority is authorized to impose under section 80A (3) (*a*) of the Government of India Act. In addition, considerable grants are made by Government for education, roads and bridges, the improvement of communications, water-supply and village sanitation, and the proper equipment and maintenance of dispensaries.

In 1923-24 Government's contribution to the expenditure of local boards under the more important heads of Education, Medical and Civil Works compared with the total expenditure under the respective heads was as shown below :—

	Government contribution	Total expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
Education	83,39,513	88,67,389
Medical	1,05,951	10,76,412
Civil Works	14,43,036	39,91,137

The greater part of the revenue is usually spent by the District Board on works of general utility to the whole district, but each taluka board has funds at its disposal to enable it to carry out and maintain works of purely local utility for which it is primarily responsible. At least one-third of the net revenue from the local fund cess and the cess on water rate must be spent on education.

There was no change in the number of District Local Boards (27) and Taluka Local Boards (222) during 1924-25. Twenty-six District Boards and 162 Taluka Boards had non-official Presidents, an increase in the latter of 3. The total membership was 3,344, of whom 2,263 were elected. The average percentage of members present at each meeting of the Taluka and the District Local Board were respectively 72·45 and 67·36 in the Northern Division, 56·95 and 64·8 in the Central Division,

52·68 and 63·5 in the Southern Division, 47·06 and 56·01 in Sind and 54 and 66·6 in the Bombay Suburban Division.

The aggregate income of the Boards rose from Rs. 161¾ lakhs to Rs. 170¾ lakhs. The incidence of taxation was highest in Broach (Re. 0-11-6) and the lowest in Ratnagiri (Re. 0-0-11). Expenditure rose by 4 lakhs to Rs. 160½ lakhs, Education (91 lakhs), Medical Relief (11 lakhs) and Public Works (34¾ lakhs) being the principal items of expenditure.

A Government Resolution reviewing the administration of Local Boards for 1923-24 says with regard to Works Committees :—

" The operations of these committees were on the whole not progressive, especially in Sind and in the Southern Division, but the generality of the members showed a fair amount of interest in the supervision of works. The grant of travelling allowance to members inspecting the works has helped to make the supervision work more effective. The tendency on the part of villagers to execute the village works even where Panchayats have been framed has been gradually disappearing. In the Northern Division the bulk of the really important work of supervision fell on the non-official Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Taluka Local Boards. In the Central Division the members have begun to show more interest in inspection work. In the Ahmednagar District the piece-work system was followed as far as possible by the District Local Board, but in the case of large works the system of giving works on contract will have to be resorted to in view of the number of works of Provincial roads and buildings transferred to the Board. In the West Khandesh District no Works Committee was appointed by the District Local Board and all its works were carried out through the Public Works Department agency. However, the Taluka Local Boards in that district have appointed Works Committees. In the Nasik, Sholapur and Satara Districts Works Committees were appointed and the Presidents of the District Local Boards concerned have reported that members have begun to take more interest in the execution of works. In the Southern Division there are no complaints regarding these Committees as in the past except in Dharwar where the President comments adversely on the apathy of members of the Works Committees. He remarks that the Works Committees of Taluka Local Boards did not meet regularly. He also points out that the members entrusted with the supervision of the execution of works visited works, after their completion, only for signing measurement books and works bills, and rendered very little help to the executive staff. In Sind the members with a few noteworthy exceptions evinced very little interest in the works executed in their talukas."

Two informal conferences of the Presidents and other representatives of District Local Boards were held under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Khan Bahadur Shaikh Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah, Minister for Local Self Government, on the 7th August 1924 and 18th November 1924

to discuss various questions, including that of taxation in connection with the administration of District Local Boards. The outstanding proposal made at the conferences was in connection with the subject of grants to the Boards by Government. As a result of the discussion, Government have appointed a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials to consider and report on the question of financial help to the District Local Boards in this Presidency. The Committee assembled at Poona on the 16th July 1925 and has been requested to report on the following points :—

(i) To consider whether the existing grant-in-aid system should be replaced by a system whereunder Government should contribute an annual subsidy to District Local Boards on a percentage basis, *i.e.*, Government should give a lump grant bearing a fixed ratio to the actual approved expenditure on the Boards on all objects other than *primary* education, the grant being based on the actuals of the previous year.

(ii) To consider what this ratio should be.

(iii) To consider whether the ratio should be the same for each District Local Board or whether it should vary according to the wealth and natural resources of each Board.

(iv) To consider what additional revenue the District Local Boards are likely to be able to realise by local taxation.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS

Another question considered by the conferences was the best method of promoting the success of the Village Panchayats. The reports of the Commissioner in Sind and the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of the Panchayats for the three years ending 1923-24 show that the results so far obtained are far from encouraging. They are all of opinion that the Panchayats have proved a failure. However, they consider that as these institutions are still in their initial stage, a further trial should be given to them, as it would be yet premature to say whether or not they have justified their creation. The following have been mentioned as the main causes of their failure—

(1) The institution is in advance of public opinion, and the people are not ready for it.

(2) The compulsory levy of house-tax is distasteful to the villagers to whom indirect taxation does not appear to be so objectionable.

(3) The want of provision for nomination in the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1920, owing to which the abolition of panchayats is inevitable when candidates refuse to stand for election.

(4) The inadequacy of funds.

(5) The general illiteracy and apathy of villagers and the existence of village factions.

(6) The inexperience of the members who are usually devoid of any sense of public duty.

(7) Want of adequate powers, especially petty Civil and Criminal powers.

Government after careful consideration came to the conclusion that the whole position requires to be thoroughly investigated. They therefore appointed a Committee to enquire into the matter and make recommendations. This assembled at Poona on the 13th July 1925, and its recommendations are awaited.

BOMBAY IMPROVEMENT TRUST

Expenditure on capital works was Rs. 73·7 lakhs against Rs. 69·6 lakhs in the preceding year. Although the work of the Engineering Department was reduced on account of lack of demand for land, yet it has been of more than ordinary importance and interest. Progress was made in the Dadar-Matunga, Sion-Matunga, Nowroji Hill, Worli, Sewri-Wadala, Parel and Mazagaon Schemes. Great progress was made with the construction of the Eastern Avenue, the City's main thoroughfare, and it was completed up to Lalbaug by the close of the year.

The chawls at Love Lane were completed and one street scheme and one Police Accommodation Scheme were notified.

In all 1,407 cases came before the Land Acquisition Officer including the opening balance of 1,401, and out of them 1,297 remained outstanding at the close of the year. Awards amounting to Rs. 20·19 lakhs were made for land aggregating 2·39 lakhs of square yards, an average rate of Rs. 8·47 per square yard, as against Rs. 5·41 per square yard for the previous year.

The area of developed land permanently leased decreased from 23·37 to 22·55 lakhs of square yards, and the rental from Rs. 25·7 to Rs. 25·3 lakhs. The area of unleased developed land at the close of the year was 10·92 lakhs square yards as against 3·69 lakhs square yards at the close of the previous year.

The balance in favour of the Trust of new tenements provided on their estates including those erected by the Development Department and the several mill companies over tenements demolished increased from 2,885 to 12,805.

The average population in the Board's chawls and semi-permanent camps was 31,869. The average death-rate for all chawls per 1,000 fell from 9·06 to 7·12, the lowest since 1912, and compared very favourably with the average death rate of the city, which rose to 31·27 from 31·11.

The total annual rental of the rooms including shops, godowns and looms in the Trust chawls amounted to Rs. 8·15 lakhs, the revenue actually collected being Rs. 6·57 lakhs or 82·12 per cent. of the total demand including arrears of the previous year. The net annual return on the chawls works out to 3·16 per cent. on the outlay, and the average loss borne by the Trust comes to Rs. 36·28 per room per annum.

The number of plots disposed of was 78 against 37 in the previous year, and their total area and capital value were 1·46 lakhs square yards and Rs. 27·87 lakhs respectively. The collection of ground rent amounted to Rs. 27·4 lakhs and the rent realised from buildings acquired but not demolished and from lands let for cultivation, etc., amounted to Rs. 15·99 lakhs.

The Capital Account stood as follows :—

Opening Balance	.. .. Rs.	137·64	lakhs.
Loan Receipts	.. .. „	100·00	„
Sale Proceeds	.. .. „	15·45	„
Expenditure	.. .. „	125·16	„ (including a deficit of Rs. 17·74 lakhs on the general account).
Closing Balance	.. .. „	127·93	lakhs.

The total borrowings of the Trust as on 31st March 1925 stood at Rs. 14 crores 54 lakhs involving payment of interest and sinking fund charges of Rs. 87 lakhs per annum.

BOMBAY PORT TRUST

The budget estimates of receipts for the year 1924-25 were framed on the assumption of a gradual improvement in trade conditions but this expectation was unfortunately not realised, although there was a slight increase in the tonnage of import cargoes landed at the docks. As compared with the original budget estimates the actual revenue for the year was disappointing, but the receipts closely approximated to the revised budget estimates. All possible retrenchments were effected and maintenance was cut down to a bare minimum, resulting in a saving of Rs. 20·64 lakhs on the original expenditure estimates and Rs. 16·54 lakhs on the revi ed estimates.

The receipts under all heads amounted to Rs. 273¾ lakhs and the expenditure to about Rs. 273¼ lakhs, the result being a small surplus of half a lakh for transfer to the Revenue Reserve Fund and the Vessels Replacement Fund.

The total tonnage of cargoes dealt with at the docks and bunders during the year was 6,459,000 tons against 6,256,000 tons in 1923-24.

The average number of daily labourers engaged was 2,680 against 3,255 in 1923-24 and the highest number supplied on a single day was 5,109 against 5,264 in the previous year. Efforts were successfully made to work all import and export vessels on a piecework basis in preference to employing labour on daily wages, as a result of which there was a substantial reduction in the cost of handling cargo. It is satisfactory to record that this change has been effected without any disturbance to labour.

The Docks Statistical Branch, which was sanctioned by the Trustees with effect from 1st April 1924, has fully justified its institution. Besides

compiling traffic returns this branch maintained costing accounts to show the exact financial results of labour contracts, the fluctuation in the cost of the docks labour supply, the incidence of charges under the General Landing Date system on various classes of cargoes, etc. The statistics collected assisted the conversion of the docks export labour from daily wages to the piecework system at rates which, while acceptable to the men, effected an appreciable saving to the Trust. The statistics compiled afford most useful information to the Docks Manager and his officers and materially assist in the control and co-operation of the various activities of the Docks Department.

The occupation of the dry docks showed a slight improvement over the preceding year, the number of vessels docked being 193 against 189 in 1923-24. The total tonnage increased to 677,239 tons, being 51,952 tons more than the previous year.

The Ballard Pier berth was used by 170 vessels as against 197 in the previous year. Postal and passenger trains to and from the station connecting with the incoming and outgoing mail steamers were run regularly during the year, the number of special trains being 271 against 289 in the previous year. The temporary hotel accommodation provided at the station for the convenience of ocean-going passengers was made use of by 3,325 adults and 556 children as against 3,868 adults and 650 children in 1923-24.

The additional passenger berth on the Alexandra Dock Harbour Wall accommodated 57 vessels against 45 in the previous year.

The total tonnage dealt with at the Bunders was 1,637,000 tons against 1,763,000 tons during 1923-24, the principal decreases being in coal and in exports of cotton and kerosene oil in bulk.

The electrification of the G. I. P. Railway Harbour Branch line was completed during the year and a regular train service established. Five of the stations on this line serve the Trustee's Estate, including the new Cotton Depot which is now easily accessible by train and tram. The opening of this line will materially facilitate the commercial development of the Mazagon-Sewri and Wadala Reclamations.

The revenue of the Port Trust Railway amounted to Rs. 27½ lakhs compared with Rs. 29⅓ lakhs for the previous year.

Owing to financial stringency, the expenditure on the housing of Port Trust employees was restricted during the year to the completion of buildings already under construction. For the railway staff 2 blocks of quarters south of Grain Depot for inferior staff and 3 blocks at Jackeria Bunder for superior line staff were completed during the year. Twelve more units were added to the blocks of quarters for scavengers at Tank Bunder, and a building consisting of 12 rooms for sweepers was also completed at Tank Bunder. The expenditure on housing during the year was Rs. 3·45

lakhs of which Rs. 2½ lakhs were expended on quarters for the superior staff and Rs. 1 lakh for the inferior staff.

Expenditure on Capital works during the year amounted to Rs. 51·76 lakhs of which Rs. 17·54 lakhs was expended on the reclamation for coal north of the existing Coal Bunder ; Rs. 6·90 lakhs on the deepening of the Alexandra Dock entrance channel ; Rs. 4·27 lakhs on the filling and lay-out of the Mazagon-Sewri and Wadala Reclamation ; Rs. 3·45 lakhs on of the Mazagon-Sewri and Wadala Reclamation ; Rs. 3·45 lakhs on quarters for superior and inferior staff ; Rs. 2·79 lakhs on the oil pier at Trombay with pipe line communication to Sewri ; Rs. 2·58 lakhs on new dredging plant and Rs. 2·50 lakhs on the new Cotton Depot. A loan of Rs. 50 lakhs was received from Government to meet Capital expenditure.

KARACHI PORT TRUST

The revenue amounted to Rs. 81½ lakhs and the expenditure to about Rs. 66 lakhs. The actual surplus was Rs. 15,67,624.

One thousand and thirty-six steamers of all kinds entered the Port with a tonnage of 2,726,923 against 945 and 2,337,536, respectively, in the previous year. Of the above 837 were of British Nationality.

Of 199 foreign steamers, 71 were Italian, 44 German, 27 Dutch, 20 Norwegian, 11 American, 10 Greek, 9 Swedish, 3 Japanese, 2 Jugo-slav, 1 Danish and 1 Finnish.

The imports landed at the ship wharves during the year totalled 485,137 tons against 362,243 tons during the previous year. The increase is due chiefly to larger imports of sugar.

The total shipments from the ship wharves for the year were 2,070,209 tons against 1,412,934 tons the previous year. The increase is due chiefly to the shipments of wheat, barley, gram and cotton. The quantity of wheat shipped was 1,038,815 tons against 608,550 tons in the previous year. The shipments of cotton were 835,691 bales equivalent to 151,944 tons and exceeded the last year's record of 705,796 bales and 128,327 tons, respectively.

The largest cargo shipped by any one vessel was 12,210 tons in the S.S. " Manoeran ".

Ten pilgrim steamers left Karachi with 6,204 pilgrims for Jeddah and 9 returned with 6,763 pilgrims during the year.

The rate of progress of work on the three berths on the West side of the harbour was not maintained in accordance with the original programme, owing to the difficulties experienced in sinking monoliths through the hard material found at the lower depths. It is anticipated however that the employment of large electric well sinking pumps and two extra Goliath Cranes for grabbing, now on order, will considerably accelerate the work.

The Trustees have ordered at a cost of £95,012 a floating suction pumping plant with a pumping capacity of 6,000 tons a day through 6,000

feet of 24 inches pipeline. By the purchase of this plant the harbour dredgings instead of being deposited at sea, will be utilised for reclamation works and the output of the ordinary dredgers largely increased as they will be able to continue working throughout the monsoon season which has not been possible in the past on account of the silt barges being unable to proceed to sea during that period of the year. In conjunction with the above plant five 800 ton barges are required for the reception of the silt and these have been ordered at a cost of £27,500. The construction of a bund estimated to cost Rs. 70,000 to protect the reclamation was commenced.

The Trustees decided to reduce the Port Dues by 50 per cent. to take effect during the financial year 1925-26.

The Karachi Port Trust Act was amended, increasing the number of Trustees from 11 to 14 to allow of a larger representation of Indians on the Board.

ADEN PORT TRUST

The financial condition of the Aden Port Trust continued to be satisfactory. During the year the receipts were Rs. 74,062 more than in the previous year. The closing balance was Rs. 12,18,807 as against an opening balance of Rs. 11,35,642.

Imports increased from Rs. 7 crores 87½ lakhs to Rs. 9 crores and exports from 6 crores 90½ lakhs to Rs. 7 crores 73½ lakhs.

The number of vessels including country craft, but excluding Government vessels, that entered the harbour was 2,482 with an aggregate tonnage of 4,290,013 as compared with 2,407 with a tonnage of 4,141,780 during the last year. Twenty-three pilgrim ships entered the harbour on their way to and from the Haj against 36 in 1923-24.

Five hundred and ninety-eight steamers entered the port of Perim against 533 in 1923-24 of which 451 called for coal and fuel oil and 147 for various other purposes.

WORKING OF THE RENT ACTS

Bombay.—The work of original enquiry held by the Deputy Rent Controller continued to be heavy throughout the year, although business premises became exempt from the operation of the Rent Acts after 1st September 1924, as there were many cases in which claims were made for repairs, alterations and additions. Both landlords and tenants often requisitioned the help and advice of Lawyers and Civil Engineers and as a result many of the enquiries were prolonged.

Seventy-two objections were received against 109 in the previous year. With 15 objections which remained undisposed of from the previous year, the total number of objections was 87 of which 57 were determined by the Rent Committee, 7 were referred back to the Deputy Rent Controller,

3 were withdrawn by the parties themselves, 19 were rejected as the parties concerned failed to pay the prescribed fee of Rs. 5, and the remaining one was pending at the close of the year. Out of these objections determined by the Rent Committee, the orders made by the Deputy Rent Controller were confirmed in 40 cases and were modified in 17 cases.

In all 18 meetings of the Rent Committee were held during the year.

As during the previous year, prosecutions were instituted against landlords or their agents who attempted to evade the orders passed by the Deputy Rent Controller by receiving rents in excess of the standard rents fixed in respect of " small premises ". The total number of prosecutions instituted was 89 including one case pending in the previous year resulting in 50 convictions and fines amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 676.

Out of the remaining 39 cases 12 were withdrawn and in 23 cases the accused were warned and discharged. Four cases were pending at the close of the year.

Poona.—Ninety-four suits under the Rent Act, including 36 pending from the previous year, came before the First Class Subordinate Judge during the year and 60 were disposed of, 34 in favour of the landlords, 3 in favour of the tenants, 13 compromised, 2 withdrawn and 8 dismissed for plaintiff's default.

Thana.—The Rent Acts were extended to Thana Mahal only. Thirty-seven new cases were received during the year and two cases were pending from the last year. All of these were decided during the year. The relief afforded by the Acts is appreciated by the middle class people some of whom are low paid Government servants.

Bombay Suburban District.—Sixty-seven applications were received for fixing the standard rent of premises. Of these, 15 did not come under the Rent Act and 52 applications were decided and standard rent fixed. The tendency of the people to take advantage of the Rent Act seemed to decrease, as business premises were excluded from the amended Rent Act. Many of the provisions of the Act are still unknown to the poor people for whose benefit standard rent for small premises is to be fixed. They continue to pay in most cases rents far exceeding the rents prevailing in 1916.

Karachi.—The standard rent of 1,611 tenements, comprising about 462 buildings, was fixed by the Rent Controller under the Small Premises Act on complaints made regarding the excess rent charged by landlords. The falling off is due to the removal of control from business premises.

Forty-eight appeals were preferred to the Rent Committee out of which the Rent Controller's decisions were upheld in 27 cases and slightly modified in 21 cases.

The important feature of the year was the removal of control with effect from 1st September 1924 from premises used for business purposes.

Landlords took advantage of their position and there was a general raising of rents.

The working of the Acts in Karachi during the year continued to be administered with the absence of any friction. Apart from the applications for the fixation of the standard rent, the advice of the Rent Controller was sought in a large number of cases and assistance was freely given.

Aden.—The Bombay Rent (War Restrictions) Acts have been in force in Aden from the date of passing by the Legislature, but a Rent Controller was for the first time appointed in 1922.

During the year the Rent Controller dealt with 311 applications and fixed the standard rent of 334 small premises.

Two appeals were preferred to the Rent Committee, and the Controller's decision was modified in one case and confirmed in the other.

One hundred and sixty-eight suits were filed before the Court for ejectment out of which 126 were decreed, 31 were dismissed, 5 settled out of Court and 6 were pending.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

CHAPTER X

COLLECTION OF REVENUE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

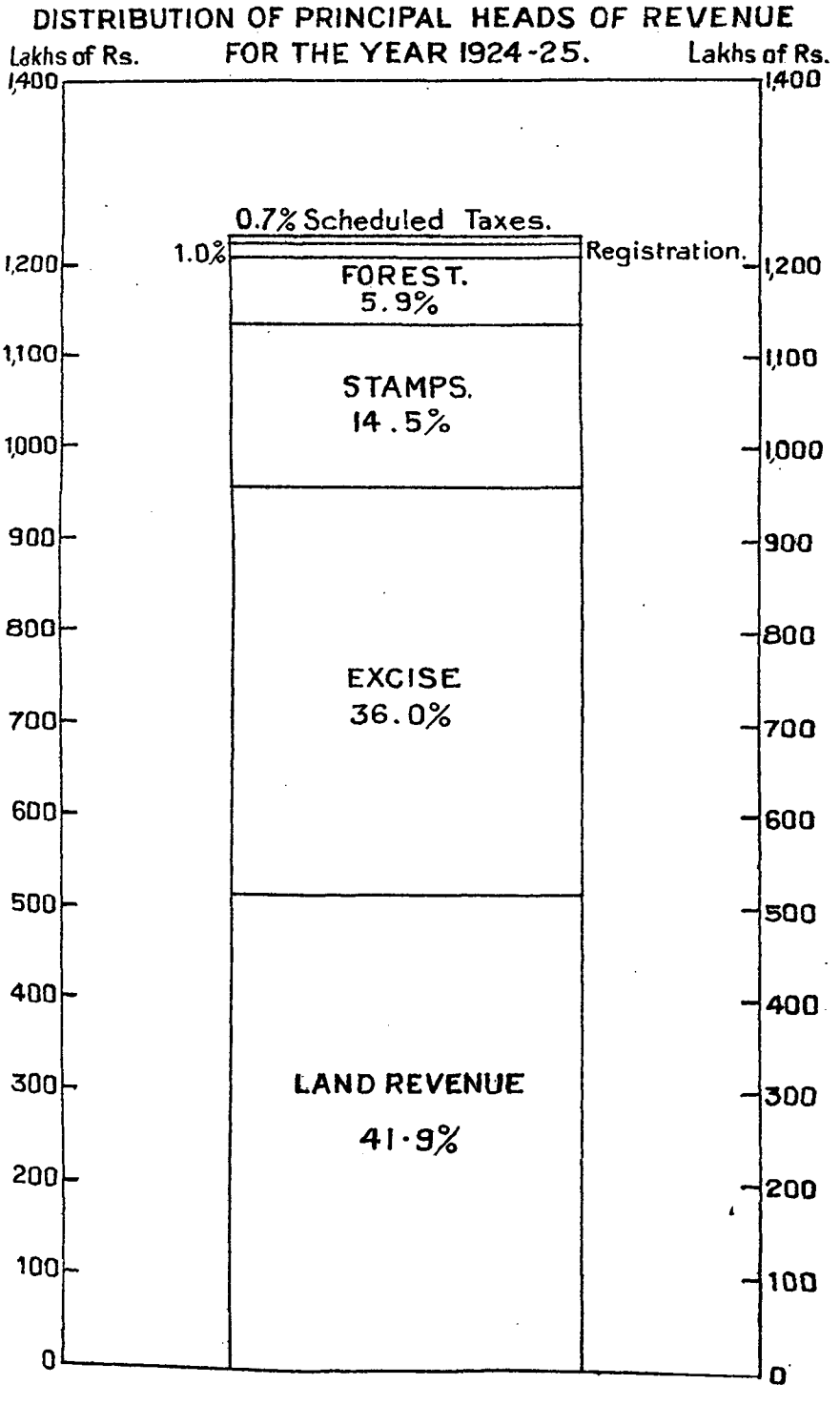
THE Revenue Administration of the Presidency of Bombay is carried on by the following officers acting under Government :—

Five Commissioners, 27 Collectors, 1 Deputy Commissioner and a number of Assistant Collectors. All these officers, with the exception of two who belong to the Bombay (Provincial) Civil Service, are members of the Covenanted Civil Service. In addition to the officers mentioned above, there are 87 Deputy Collectors. They are divided into three grades and are generally in charge of district treasuries or of divisions of districts.

A Collectorate generally contains ten talukas, each of which comprises about one hundred Government villages, that is, villages that are not alienated and the total revenues of which belong to the State. Each village has its regular complement of officers, a large number of whom are hereditary. The officers on whose services Government is mainly dependent are the patil, who is the head of the village for both revenue and police purposes ; the talati or kulkarni, who is the clerk and accountant ; the mahar, who is a kind of beadle ; and the watchman. The patil and kulkarni either hold a certain quantity of rent-free land or are remunerated by a cash payment equivalent to a certain percentage on the collections. The mahar and watchman, in common with other village servants, also hold land on more or less favourable terms as regards assessment, and receive in addition grain and other payments in kind from the villagers. The remaining servants are the carpenter, blacksmith, potter, barber, and others whose services are necessary to the community. A village is for Government or social purposes complete in itself, so its revenue accounts are simple but complete. They are based on the Record of Rights. Every plot of land held by an occupant is separately measured, assessed and entered in the Record in the name of the person or persons in actual possession of it. The land revenue demand is based on this Record which is thus both a Record of Rights as well as of liability.

Over each taluka of a collectorate there is an officer termed MAMLATDAR (or Mukhtiarkar in Sind). This officer is responsible for the treasury business of his taluka. He has to see that the instalments are punctually paid by the several villages, that the village accounts are duly kept, that the occupants get their payments duly receipted, that the boundary marks are kept in proper repair ; in fact, to see that the village officers do their work properly. He is also a Magistrate.

AN ASSISTANT OR DEPUTY COLLECTOR is placed in revenue charge of, on an average, four talukas.


DISTRIBUTION OF PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUE
FOR THE YEAR 1924-25.
Lakhs of Rs.
Lakhs of Rs.
1,400
1,200
1,100
1,000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
0.7% Scheduled Taxes.
1.0%
Registration.
FOREST.
5.9%
STAMPS.
14.5%
EXCISE
36.0%
LAND REVENUE
41·9%

THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE is placed over the whole district. Besides superintending the realisation of the land revenue, the duties of administering the excise and other special taxes and of supervising the stamp revenue devolve in each district upon the Collector as executive head of the district.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONERS, of whom there are four for the Presidency proper and one in Sind, exercise a general superintendence and control over the revenue administration of the Presidency.

An important feature of the Revenue Administration is the steady rise in the revenue for non-agricultural use of lands. With the growth of trade and business and the expansion of towns more and more land is being diverted to non-agricultural purposes and the enhanced assessment realised on this account forms a not inconsiderable portion of the Revenue of the land.

THE BUDGET FOR 1924-25

There was again a set back in the year under review under the most important head of land revenue receipts. The budget estimate for the year stood at 575¾ lakhs land revenue in addition to 60½ lakhs under irrigation, a total of 636¼ lakhs. The final accounts of the year showed that the actual revenue was 516¼ lakhs land revenue plus 74½ lakhs for irrigation, or a total decrease of 45½ lakhs. The revenue under this head is subject to heavy fluctuations owing to the policy of grant of suspensions and remissions on a liberal scale. From the agricultural stand-point, the year was on the whole favourable in the greater part of the Presidency which was fortunate in escaping the ravages of the great storms which swept over the south-western coast of India but stopped just within our Kanara borders, and also those storms which wrought such havoc in Upper India. The latter storms however affected the water-sheds of the river Indus and caused the inundation to rise in places 3 or 4 feet above the highest recorded level. Considerable expenditure had to be incurred to repair the breaches in water courses effected by the heavy floods.

The proposal of Government for the continuance of the enhanced rates of Court Fees, levied for a period of two years ending 31st March 1924 under the Court Fees (Bombay Amendment) Act, I of 1922, was negatived by the Legislative Council, the result of which was that the estimate of stamp revenue for 1924-25 was reduced to 168½ lakhs as compared with the actuals of 180 lakhs for 1923-24. The actual revenue for 1924-25 stood at 178 lakhs. The improvement of 9½ lakhs was due to the additional assignment sanctioned by the Government of India to recoup the loss to the provincial revenues on account of the use of unified postage and revenue stamps on documents chargeable with stamp duty. Since the introduction of the reforms, the Government of India were making an annual assignment of 3·3 lakhs to this Presidency to cover the loss of revenue on account of the use of unified stamps. This Government represented to the Central

Government that the assignment was totally inadequate as compared with the actual loss sustained by the Provincial revenues and the Government of India have now on a reconsideration increased the annual assignment to 12½ lakhs.

There was a slight improvement in the excise revenue which was estimated in the budget at 440 lakhs but stood in the final accounts at 443 lakhs. The increase is due to higher realisation from vend fees and not to increase in consumption. Since the inception of the Reforms, Government have been successfully pursuing a policy of discouraging the consumption of liquor. The consumption has fallen since 1920-21 from 28·4 lakhs of gallons in that year to 18·4 lakhs in 1923-24 and 17·2 lakhs in the year under review.

Under 'Forests' the receipts for the year were estimated at 81 lakhs, while the actual realisations were 73 lakhs. The decrease in revenue was due to discontinuance of the contract for supply of timber to the G. I. P. Railway, to the curtailment in quantity and decrease in the rate of fuel supplied to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and to the continued slump in the market.

Under 'Registration', the revenue was estimated in the budget for 1924-25 at 13¼ lakhs. It stood in the final accounts at 12½ lakhs.

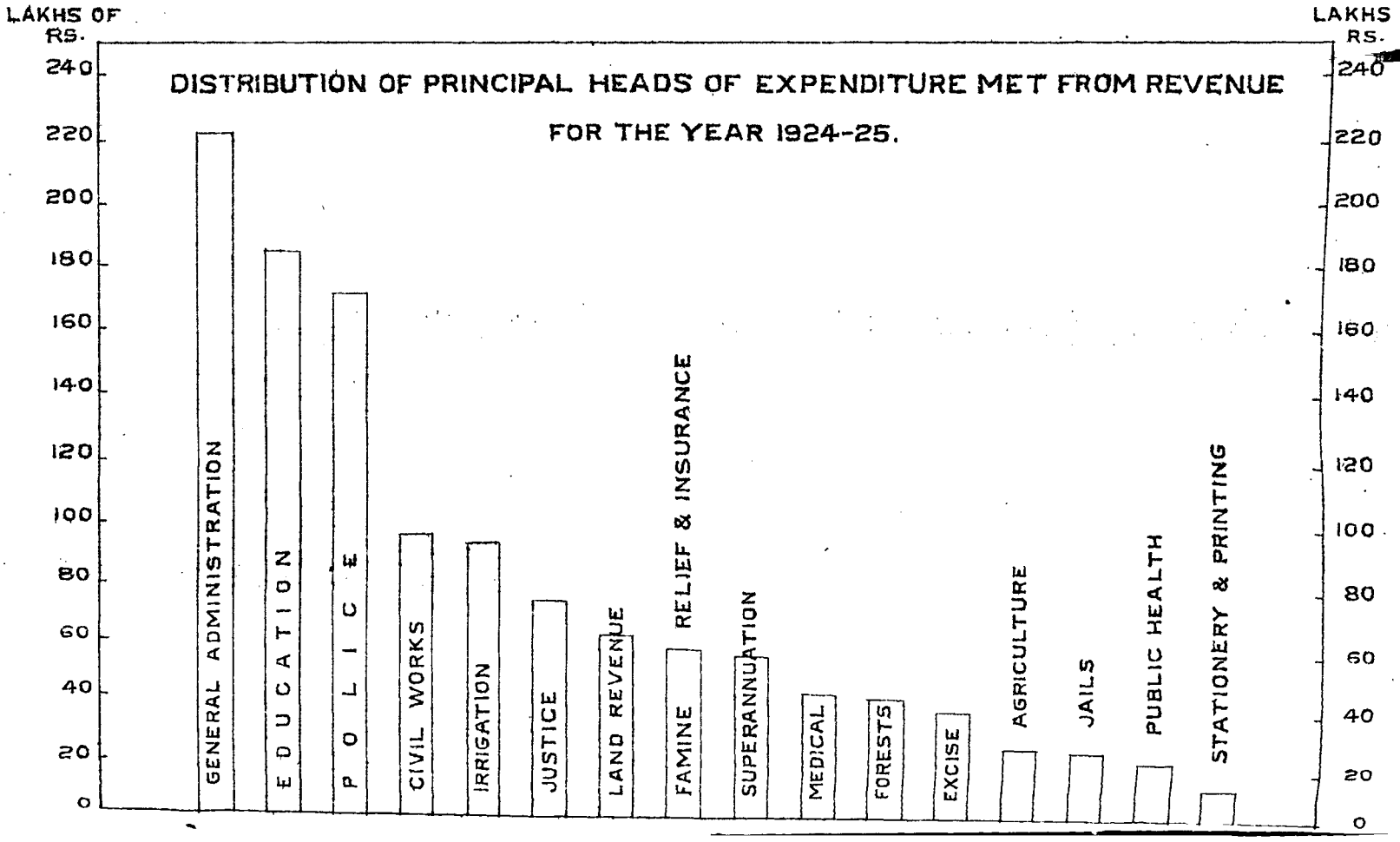
The operation of the Entertainments Duty Act of 1923 was estimated to bring in a revenue of 10½ lakhs. The actual receipts however amounted to 9 lakhs.

Under the Reforms Scheme, all charges incurred in connection with the maintenance of relations with Indian States are declared as Central and have therefore to be borne by the Government of India. The Government of Bombay had to incur considerable expenditure on the maintenance of the relations with the States within the Presidency and therefore moved the Government of India to recoup to the provincial revenues the charges incurred since the inception of the Reforms. The Government of India have agreed to make assignments to the Provincial Revenues to the extent of 41½ lakhs in the accounts for 1924-25.

The big decrease of expenditure under "Land Revenue" and corresponding increase under "General Administration" as compared with actuals of previous years is mainly due to the transfer of the charges on account of "Allowances to District and Village Officers" and "Assessment of Alienated lands less quit rent" from the head "Land Revenue" to the head "General Administration". There was a slight increase in the expenditure under the heads 'Medical,' 'Public Health' and 'Agriculture' owing to the increased activities of those Departments. The expenditure under other important heads is reviewed under those heads.

LOAN ACCOUNTS

The total advance drawn from the Government of India during the year 1924-25 for Development and general purposes was Rs. 7,04,68,000.


LAKHS OF RS.
LAKHS OF RS.
DISTRIBUTION OF PRINCIPAL HEADS OF EXPENDITURE MET FROM REVENUE
FOR THE YEAR 1924-25.
240
220
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
EDUCATION
POLICE
CIVIL WORKS
IRRIGATION
JUSTICE
LAND REVENUE
FAMINE RELIEF & INSURANCE
SUPERANNUATION
MEDICAL
FORESTS
EXCISE
AGRICULTURE
JAILS
PUBLIC HEALTH
STATIONERY & PRINTING

Out of this amount Rs. 500 lakhs were for the Development purposes and the rest for general purposes. Out of the Rs. 500 lakhs, Rs. 200 lakhs were utilised by the Development Department proper, Rs. 150 lakhs were advanced to the Bombay Municipality, Rs. 50 lakhs to the Bombay Port Trust and Rs. 100 lakhs to the City of Bombay Improvement Trust. The advances carried interest at 5¾ per cent. per annum.

NO REVENUE FROM INCOME TAX

For the year under review, the income tax revenue in this Presidency amounted to Rs. 403¾ lakhs due to the continuance of the general depression in trade. This province gets nothing as its share out of the income tax revenue for 1924-25, as the assessed income for that year falls considerably below the assessed income of the year 1920-21 (a year of unexampled industrial prosperity) which is fixed as the datum line, under which this Presidency is entitled to a small subvention when the assessed income in any year exceeds that datum line. During 1923-24 also this Presidency received no share in the income-tax revenue, as the assessed income fell below the datum line fixed. It will thus be seen that Bombay which is primarily an industrial province and contributes nearly a third of the total income tax revenue of India usually receives nothing out of this vast source of revenue. In introducing the budget for 1925-26, the Honourable the Finance Member stated :—

" This year again we receive no benefit from the income tax collected in this Presidency. The Government have lost no opportunity of expressing their dissent from the system that was established under what is known as the Meston Settlement ; and although we have failed to secure any redress during these last four years, we do not propose to acquiesce in the anomalies of the system without continuous protests. Our protests will be put before the Taxation Enquiry Committee, and we know that we have in this matter the unanimous support of this House.

" In every federal system of taxation in the world, Provincial Governments share with the Federal Government the proceeds of the income tax. The province of Bombay with its highly developed industrial life contributes large sums to the income tax—far larger than any of the great agricultural provinces of the country. Its administrative needs are necessarily on a higher scale suited to the more advanced standard of industrial life. We can but point out the grievous anomaly that no part of the revenues derived from industry should be made available to the provincial Governments for expenditure on the needs of industry. We therefore welcome the arrival of the Taxation Enquiry Committee in the confident hope that they will recommend the removal of this anomaly and the redress of our grievance."

The principal items of revenue and expenditure for the year 1924-25 are given below :—

(Figures in thousands of rupees)

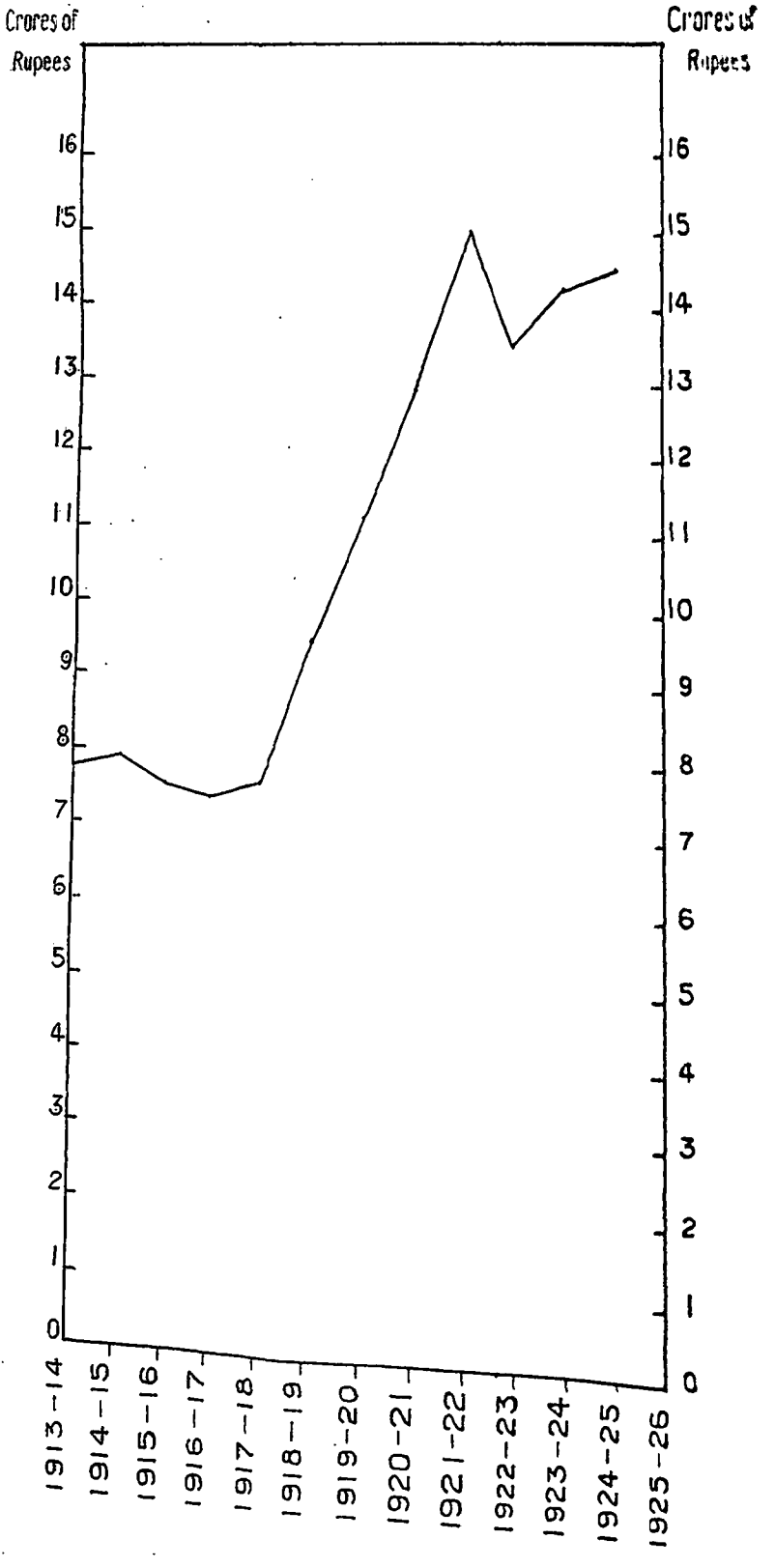
Head of Account	Revenue	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue	5,16,13	62,22
Excise	4,42,98	40,39
Stamps	1,78,06	2,82
Forests	73,08	43,82
Registration	12,49	6,97
Scheduled Taxes	9,03	18
Irrigation	53,28	90,79*
Interest	1,32,67	1,90,40
Sinking Funds	..	11,92
Administration of Justice	15,14	72,81
Jails and Convict Settlements	4,59	26,12
Police	5,00	1,71,21
Education	11,21	1,85,69
Medical	6,25	45,40
Public Health	5,65	22,90
Agriculture	3,37	26,90
Industries	4	19
Miscellaneous Departments	2,12	5,20
Civil Works	15,42	94,92
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ..	18,04	55,62
Stationery and Printing	2,44	12,58
Miscellaneous	7,26	22,71
General Administration	..	2,23,53
Ports and Pilotage	..	20
Scientific Departments	..	65
Famine Relief and Insurance	..	57,22

* This includes expenditure of 6,38 on account of interest on the Lloyd Barrage scheme met out of the annual assignment of 63,60 for Famine Relief and Insurance. It is decided to meet interest to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs annually on the scheme from the Famine Relief assignment but for the year under review, the total interest on the scheme amounted only to 6.38.

LAND REVENUE

———	Demand.	Collection.	Suspensions.	Remissions.
	Lakhs.	Lakhs.	Lakhs.	Lakhs.
Northern Division ..	139·81	132·40	6·05	1·16
Central Division ..	213·94	176·13	26·02	11·70
Southern Division ..	134·20	119·07	14·40	·67
Sind	121·91	120·28	·52	6·10
Bombay Suburban Division ..	1·78	1·60	$\frac{1}{5}$	....

TOTAL EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO REVENUE.



PUBLIC WORKS REVENUE

The Public Works Revenue falls under the three heads " Imperial Military, " " Central " and " Provincial ". The revenue under Provincial which consists of rents of buildings, rents of electric and water supply and sanitary installations, Ferry receipts, Tolls on roads, sale of water, etc., amounted to nearly Rs. 15½ lakhs as against Rs. 17 lakhs derived last year.

The Revenue under the other two heads amounted to nearly Rs. 1½ lakh as against Rs. 71,000 derived last year.

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

PORT OF BOMBAY

Until the year under review Customs, though a Central subject, was administered by the several Local Governments concerned as agents for the Government of India. Early in 1924 the Indian legislature created by Act IV of 1924 a Central Board of Revenue, which from the 1st of April took over from the Maritime Local Governments the administration of the Custom Houses. The Board is now the Chief Customs Authority for and adjudicates all appeals from the Custom Houses, and applications for revision lie to the Government of India instead of to the Local Governments. This measure of centralization has certainly had the effect of speeding up decisions on general questions and of securing uniformity among the Custom Houses. At the same time the powers of Collectors of Customs have been fully maintained, and in some respects enhanced. Consequently the change has benefited both the local heads of the Custom Houses and the commercial public.

Changes in the rates of duty.—The general rate of import duty during the year under review remained unaltered at 15 per cent. The Indian Finance Act, 1924, imposed with effect from 1st March 1924 a heavy specific duty on undipped splints for match making and on match boxes and the veneers from which they are made. An entirely new principle—that of protection—was inserted into the tariff by the Steel Industry (Protection) Act XIV of 1924 which came into effect on 13th June 1924. An amendment of the Sea Customs Act made Government property liable to duty with effect from 1st April 1924, and during the year Rs. 13·35 lakhs were collected thereon.

Gross Customs Receipts.—The gross receipts credited to Customs at the Bombay Custom House, excluding the excise duty on cotton manufactures and the tea and cotton cesses, amounted to the record figure of Rs. 13 crores 14½ lakhs during the year under report as compared with Rs. 11 crores 80 lakhs in the preceding year.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure during the year under report was Rs. 17·71 lakhs as against Rs. 16·77 lakhs (final figure) in the previous

year. The ratio of gross expenditure to net collections fell from 1·5 to 1·3 per cent. The cost of the establishment, which includes the cost of establishments maintained at the expense of private firms in connection with their bonded warehouses, increased from Rs. 13·21 lakhs to Rs. 13·46 lakhs, but represented only 1·05 per cent. of the net collections as against 1·1 per cent. in the preceding year. If merchants' payments on account of special establishments and services be deducted from both the revenue and expenditure sides of the account, the ratio of true expenditure to revenue is 1·1 per cent. as against 1·3 per cent. in 1923-24.

Customs Offences.—The total number of cases adjudicated under the Sea Customs Act was 2,764. Of these 1,182 related to offences in respect of Merchandise Marks. Of the remaining 1,582 no penalty was imposed in 190 cases. The cases adjudicated in the preceding year number 2,307. The penalties and fines imposed during the year under report aggregated Rs. 1,24,000 as against Rs. 1,16,000 in 1923-24.

The two chief classes of offences, says the Annual Report, are (1) misdeclaration and (2) attempts to smuggle inwards and outwards dutiable and prohibited goods. The most common offences in the second class are importations through the post—usually innocent—of goods which may not be so imported, such as arms, parts of arms, and drugs. There were in all 187 such cases. There were only 31 cases of importation through the post of obscenities in the year under review as against 143 in the year 1923-24. The illicit export trade in wild birds' plumage has not been entirely checked although, by skilful detective work, some of the leaders of the trade in different parts of India were brought to book. There were seven cases of export or attempted export during the year as against 13 in the previous year. The offenders were penalised in all cases. A commodity which is extensively smuggled into British India is saccharin. Little is smuggled into Bombay by sea, but quantities find their way into the Madras Presidency over land from French Territory and are distributed thence over India. A large consignment which had thus reached Bombay was successfully seized as a result of a communication from the Madras Customs, to whom the case was remitted for adjudication. The Preventive Department seized nearly 8 lbs. of cocaine during the year.

Cases under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act numbered 1,182 during the year under report as compared with 539 in the previous year. The increase in the number of cases was due to the more thorough examination which was made this year of German and other Continental goods.

During the year 31 applications were received from parties interested in trade marks requesting the Custom House to detain goods imported with imitations of marks to the exclusive use of which the applicants claimed a right.

There were 720 cases of false trade description as to the country of origin. In 18 of these cases goods made in one foreign country bore

descriptions suggestive of origin in another foreign country. The remaining 702 cases related to goods not manufactured in the United Kingdom or British India but bearing names of British Indian dealers or other descriptive terms suggestive of British or British Indian origin.

Land Customs.—The special features of the Land Customs Administration of 1924-25 were (1) the enactment of the Land Customs Act, XIX of 1924, and (2) the prohibition of the import by land into British India of matches, cigarettes, sugar and spirits from Cutch under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act. The new Act came into force from 13th November 1924.

The number of duty collecting stations on the Portuguese Frontiers remained unchanged during the year. The receipts at the Custom Houses were Rs. 9·21 lakhs during the year under report against Rs. 6·62 lakhs during the previous year, an increase of Rs. 2·59 lakhs. The increase was mainly due to larger imports of dutiable oil at Marmugao and partly to greater removals of rice and paddy to Goa owing to a failure of crop there.

SIND

The gross revenue collected in Sind amounted to 5 crores 57 lakhs as compared with 3 crores and 65 lakhs in the previous year. The refunds and drawbacks amounted to Rs. 18 lakhs. The total expenditure was Rs. 6·55 lakhs showing an increase of Rs. 45,000.

Collections on account of import duty on private merchandise rose by Rs. 170·74 lakhs or 48 per cent. to Rs. 529·82 lakhs. Of this amount no less than Rs. 160·37 lakhs were recovered on imports of sugar. Next in importance from a revenue point of view were cotton piece-goods which realised Rs. 138·68 lakhs or Rs. 44·84 lakhs in excess of the receipts in the year 1923-24. Duty on liquors increased by 7·31 lakhs to Rs. 38·38 lakhs. The total import duty on iron and steel, including special protective duties, amounted to Rs. 27·15 lakhs, exhibiting an increase of Rs. 12·98 lakhs. Realizations on articles imported by post advanced from Rs. 2·97 lakhs to Rs. 10·49 lakhs in 1924-25, an increase of Rs. 7·52 lakhs. An improvement was also noticeable under oils (+Rs. 2·38 lakhs), and yarns and textile fabrics, other than cotton (+Rs. 4·56 lakhs). Receipts from tobacco and matches amounted to Rs. 18·95 lakhs and Rs. 15·10 lakhs, representing a decrease of Rs. 4·87 lakhs and Rs. 2·92 lakhs, respectively. The total amount of protective duties recovered was Rs. 19·23 lakhs. Import duty on Government stores amounted to Rs. 19·62 lakhs. The total collections of export duty on private merchandise improved from Rs. 5·86 lakhs to Rs. 7 lakhs. Receipts from rice which totalled Rs. 2·92 lakhs showed an excess of Rs. 47,493 and those from hides and skins which amounted to Rs. 4·03 lakhs improved by Rs. 68,835. The total export duty on Government stores amounted to Rs. 1,984.

During the year under report 838 cases were adjudicated under the Sea Customs Act as against 561 in the previous year while there were 1,173 consignments which infringed the requirements of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act as compared with 1,207 last year.

SALT DEPARTMENT

The salt with which the Bombay Presidency Salt Department has to deal may conveniently be classified as follows :—

(1) Baragra or Rann Salt made from brine wells on the edge of the Lesser Rann of Cutch in the salt works at Kharaghoda and Udu, six miles apart, and jointly named the Pritchard Salt Works. These are Government property and worked departmentally.

(2) Sea salt made within the Presidency. The factories at Dharasna and Chharwada at the Southern end of the Gujarat Coast near Bulsar are both Government property and worked departmentally. The other salt works, with three exceptions, are grouped within a radius of 30 miles of Bombay city. Some are Government property and are leased to private individuals for working; others are owned as well as worked privately.

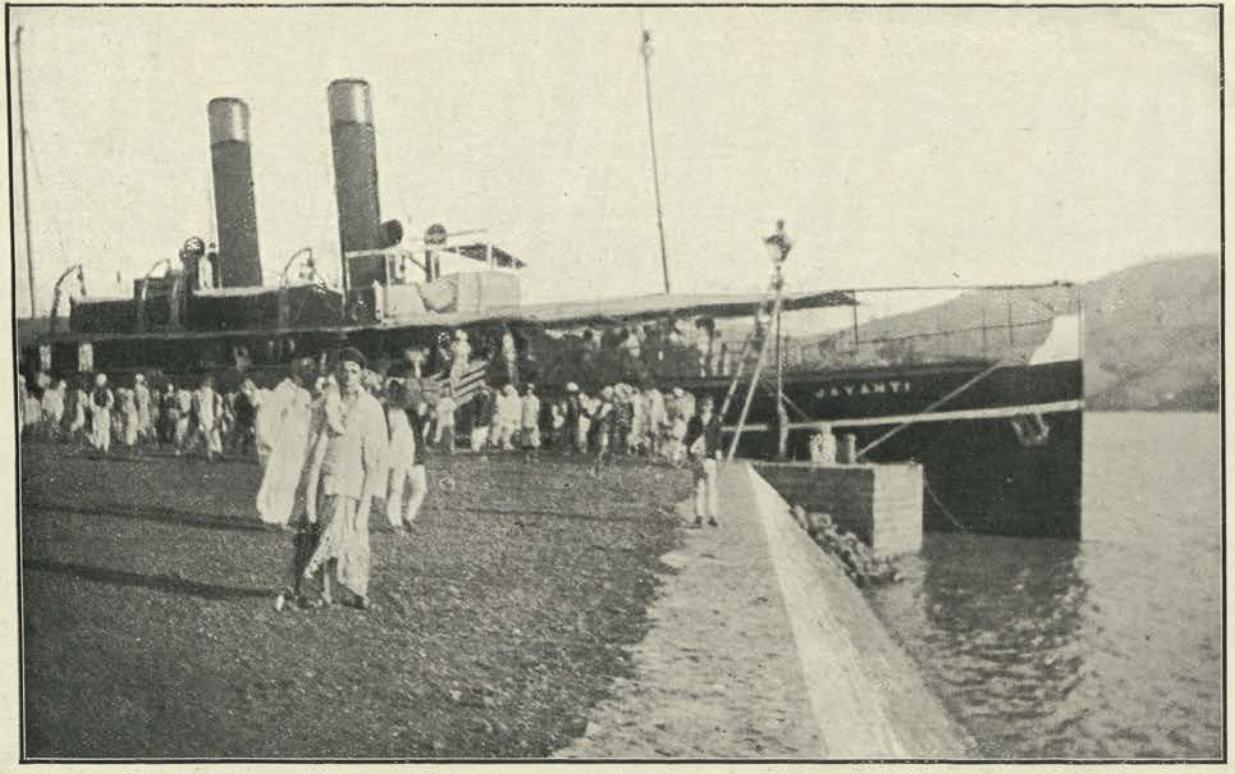
(3) Imported salt, mostly from sea salt works in Goa territory.

The following table indicates the issues of salt during 1923-24 and 1924-25 with reference to their relative importance :—

	1923-24	1924-25
	Mds.	Mds.
Baragra Salt	1,526,164	3,101,715
Sea Salt	8,194,740	10,406,860
Imported Salt	289,873	344,244
	10,010,777	13,852,819

The year's sales were abnormal, and a large portion of the removals took place in April, May and June last year to replenish the depleted stocks of the wholesale and retail trade. The violent fluctuations were due mainly to anticipated changes in the rates of duty. The reduction of duty to Re. 1-4-0 a maund decreased the revenue by Rs. 52 lakhs.

Production was further restricted at Kharaghoda owing to the large stocks in hand. The Pritchard Salt Works produced 1,561,131 maunds. The quantity in hand at Kharaghoda at the close of the manufacturing season was 74·54 lakhs of maunds, exclusive of 9·32 lakhs of maunds at Kuda, compared with 91·9 lakhs at the end of the previous year. This reduction in stock was due to restricted manufacture, somewhat increased sales and the writing off of loss and wastage,



Salt Department. West wall of wharf at Dabhol. S.S. " Jayanti " alongside wharf, south side.

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The total quantity of salt issued and imported for consumption in the Presidency proper is shown below :—

Name of Province.	Year.	Quantity.	Population.	Average per head.
		Maunds.		Lbs.
Gujarat	1923–24	976,716	6,840,085	11·74
	1924–25	1,200,235		14·44
Konkan, Deccan and Southern Maratha Country	1923–24	2,515,082	15,479,188	13·36
	1924–25	2,852,456		15·16
Total ..	1923–24	3,491,798	22,319,273	12·87
	1924–25	4,052,691		14·94

The *per capita* issues for consumption in the Presidency proper have slightly increased.

All the districts showed a reduction in price over the preceding year's prices owing to the reduction in the rate of duty. In most cases the prices have fallen in proportion to the reduction in duty, notwithstanding the fact that the retail dealers possessed some stock purchased when the duty was Rs. 2-8-0.

SIND

During the year under report 448,531 maunds were manufactured at Maurypur Salt Works against 311,869 maunds in 1923-24 and the quantity of salt excavated at the Saran Salt Works was 21,800 maunds against 16,524 maunds in the previous year. 9,023 maunds of salt were excavated at Darwari Salt deposit against 100 maunds in the previous year. The increase in production at Maurypur Salt Works is due to an increase in the number of pans licensed from 117 to 178 and to the removal of restrictions on production. The increased output at Saran was due to the increased demand.

While at Darwari Salt deposit salt was excavated for the first time since 1920-21. The balance of salt was 5 years' old and it was feared that owing to loss and deterioration from climatic influences, etc., the stock might be insufficient to meet the demand for the year under report.

Of the total quantity of salt produced locally and imported by private agencies from Europe and the Punjab 541,534 maunds were consumed in Sind during the year under report.

The average wholesale and retail prices of salt in the province work out to Rs. 2-9-0 and Rs. 2-14-9 per maund as compared with Rs. 3-15-6 and Rs. 4-3-2 in the previous year.

The gross receipts from the Excise duty and other charges amounted to Rs. 7·14 lakhs and the expenditure (share debitable to Salt) to Rs. 1·78 lakhs. The percentage of charges on gross receipts was 24·9.

The number of offences against Salt laws detected during the year was 44 as against 26 in 1923-24.

ADEN

The total revenue and expenditure on salt for the year amounted to Rs. 61,593 and Rs. 2,732 respectively against Rs. 65,973 and Rs. 2,593 in the previous year.

The quantity of excise salt issued from the Arab Salt Works at Sheik Othman was 24,330 local maunds during the year, which was retained for consumption in British territory. The total quantity exported to the interior of Arabia amounted to 42,374 maunds against 39,546 maunds in the previous year. The total amount of cost price realised by the salt-pit owners was Rs. 2,432 against Rs. 2,268 in 1923-24.

The quantity of salt exported by the Italian Salt Company was 130,537 tons against 121,091 tons in 1923-24. The quantity of salt exported from Messrs. Abdoolabhoy and Joomabhoy Lalljee's salt works during the year was 66,275 against 72,849 tons in the preceding year.

From the Arab Salt pans 119 tons were exported to East Africa during the year.

EXCISE

For the fifth year in succession the consumption of country liquor showed a decline, the decrease from the last year's figures being 128,000 gallons L.P. or 7 per cent. The total reduction since the year 1919-20 has been 1,147,000 gallons L.P. or 40 per cent. The fall during the year under report was registered in all but seven districts. Nowhere did the consumption reach the rationed quantity. Twenty-four country liquor shops were closed, bringing the number at the end of the year to 1,767. The number of shops licensed exclusively for the sale of spirit of 60° U.P. was 609 as against 601 in the previous year.

The consumption of toddy decreased by 629,000 gallons. As pointed out last year, however, no great reliance can be placed on these figures. A more satisfactory proof of reduced consumption was the reduction in the number of trees tapped by 32,916. The number of toddy licenses also fell from 25,096 in the previous year to 18,382 in the year under report. The largest decrease occurred in the number of domestic consumption licenses in the Surat District owing to the withdrawal from the Kaliparaj tribes of the privilege of tapping trees at lower rates of tree-tax and to the restriction placed on the grant of such licenses.

The reverse was the case with regard to foreign liquor, both the imports and sales of which showed a substantial increase over the figures of last year. The increases under imports in the Presidency proper and Sind

East end of wharf at Dabhol, showing landing steps and Indian Company's office at far side.

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were 55,000 and 310,000 gallons respectively, while the sales increased by 65,000 and 51,000 gallons respectively. As the ports of Bombay and Karachi supply a large hinterland beyond the limits of this Presidency attention may be confined, for the purpose of comparison, to the figures of sales only. The large increase under this head in both the areas is attributed to the preference shown by the labouring and middle classes for imported beer and other fermented liquors and for cheap foreign spirits, mostly from Java and Germany, on account of their high strength and low cost compared with country liquor.

The consumption of ganja and bhang showed an increase of 1,213 and 230 seers respectively in the Presidency proper and a decrease of 43 and 1,748 seers respectively in Sind. The consumption of charas in the latter Province decreased by 1,280 seers. The increased use of the drugs in the Presidency proper is attributed by the Commissioner to diversion of custom from country spirit. In Sind the decrease was due to increased duties on bhang and charas and the closure of certain shops. The sale of opium in the Presidency proper decreased from 26,866 to 26,311 seers, while in Sind it increased from 5,897 to 5,994 seers.

Commenting on the year's work the Government resolution said :—

" The reduced consumption of country liquor would furnish ground for satisfaction, but for the belief that the reduction does not altogether represent real progress in temperance but is set off by increased use of illicit and foreign liquor. From the nature of the case no direct proof of increased consumption of the former can be obtained ; but the fact that offences of illicit distillation increased from 1,148 in 1921-22 to 2,336 in 1924-25—although the latter number represents a fall of 195 over the previous year— is evidence of larger use. The testimony of experienced officers also shows that illicit distillation is on the increase. Government consider this increase to be a most dangerous factor in their excise administration since it nullifies to a large extent their efforts in the direction of temperance. They have accordingly sanctioned recently, with the concurrence of the Legislative Council, a substantial increase in the excise force of the Presidency. But Government recognise that every fresh restriction on liquor, whether by raising its price or curtailing facilities for obtaining it, must give an impetus to this tendency, while preventive establishments cannot be increased indefinitely. In order to strike at the root of the evil a more radical remedy is clearly needed, and it might be found in the suggested application of the Mhowra Act to the whole of the Presidency proper. Government, therefore, desire that the feasibility of this measure should be fully considered and the necessary proposals for its application submitted to them at an early date.

The increase of foreign liquor is an equally serious matter. Government realize that the root-cause of both the evils is partly their own policy of raising by various means the price of country liquor and thereby

bringing it into competition with the cheap foreign and illicit liquor. But while a reduction in price might be feasible in particular areas, Government are of opinion that there can be no going back on this policy; and a solution of the difficulties which have arisen cannot be found by cheapening country liquor and making it more abundant. A partial remedy lies in greater vigilance against illicit distillation on the one hand, and greater restrictions on foreign liquor on the other. The case of illicit liquor has been referred to above. As regards foreign liquor Government have already raised the scale of license fees for its vend. Further steps to prevent its competition with country liquor are engaging their anxious attention. Government also propose to take suitable steps to prevent the increased consumption of hemp drugs in the Presidency proper. It must however be recognised that there can be no real temperance without a will to temperance and the habits of the drinking classes cannot be changed by any legislative enactment or executive order.

The number of offences of illicit distillation decreased slightly during the year; but excise crime generally showed an increase. It must be admitted that severe restrictions placed on old established habits of the people must inevitably result in frequent breaches of those restrictions and to that extent the increase of excise crime, although it cannot but be viewed with alarm, is normal. But the growth of certain species of crime, *e.g.*, resort to violence in defence of illicit distillation which is reported from West Khandesh District is symptomatic of grave dangers and must be suppressed rigorously."

The total excise revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 4,17,66,000 as against Rs. 4,20,76,000 in the previous year, a decrease of Rs. 3,10,000. The decrease in the Presidency proper amounted to Rs. 3,66,000 while there was a slight increase of Rs. 41,000 in Sind and Rs. 15,000 in Aden. The largest decrease of Rs. 16,69,000 occurred in the Presidency proper under still-head duty on country liquor, partially counterbalanced by an increase of Rs. 4,56,000 under license fees for the vend of country liquor and sundry increases under other heads.

An important administrative measure during the year was the re-organization of the toddy administration in the Surat District, where the consumption of toddy had assumed vast proportions. Steps were accordingly taken to check it by raising the tree-tax and by limiting the number of trees which could be tapped to 9/10th of the average number tapped in the previous five years. At the same time the number of trees allowed to be tapped under domestic consumption licenses was curtailed and the issue of such licenses to new applicants discontinued. Lastly, the privilege of a reduced rate of tree-tax for the Kaliparaj tribes in the Bulsar, Chikhli and Pardi talukas of the district was withdrawn. The evidence of competent observers and employers of agricultural and other labour testified to the great demoralization which immoderate drinking of cheap

toddy produced among these people. The concession moreover was originally intended to be abrogated at a much earlier date. In accordance with the trend of the recent excise policy the concession was therefore withdrawn. The result of these measures was a noteworthy decline of 637,000 gallons in the consumption of toddy during the year under report.

The year 1924-25 closed with the issue of orders on the Report of the Excise Committee including a declaration by Government in favour of total prohibition as the goal of their excise policy. " Government," says the Resolution referred to above, " do not underrate the difficulties which stand in the way of the success of this policy and the experience of the past year's excise administration is not encouraging. The administrative difficulties hitherto experienced are moreover only one phase of the problem ; the equally serious if not greater financial difficulties still remain to be faced. It is essential for the consummation of the new policy that Government should be assured of the help of the Council in making up the loss of revenue which will be caused by the adoption of further measures towards the intended goal. They hope that the Committee about to be set up for ascertaining what new sources of revenue exist and what amount of fresh income they will bring into the exchequer will be able to assist Government to pursue this policy of prohibition without seriously impairing the activities and development of the great nation-building departments."

COTTON DUTIES ACT

There was a large increase in the production of woven goods during the year 1924-25. Over 347 million pounds were issued from the weaving mills against 308 million pounds in the year 1923-24. The increase was partly due to the production of coarser goods on a larger scale owing to a somewhat inferior cotton crop and to the desire to create a demand among the lower classes for cloth at low rates.

Year.	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Other Districts.	Bombay Presidency.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1923-24 ..	194,206,292	79,478,052	34,231,031	307,915,375 Value Rs. 42,50,81,350
1924-25 ..	220,391,586	93,687,656	33,593,294	347,672,536 Value Rs. 47,19,51,050
Increase ..	26,185,294	14,209,604	....	39,757,161 Value Rs. 4,68,69,700
Decrease ..	....	....	637,737	....

The quantity of hosiery produced was 185,270 pounds as against 180,116 pounds in 1923-24.

The following table shows the production of yarn :—

Year.	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Other Districts.	Bombay Presidency.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1923-24 ..	269,586,583	75,602,255	53,363,185	398,552,023
1924-25 ..	327,542,756	92,006,641	54,742,662	474,292,059
Increase ..	57,956,173	16,404,386	1,379,477	75,740,036
Decrease ..	....	....	....	.....

The percentage of fine yarn from 21 to 40 counts and upwards was 37·72 as against 36·79 for the previous year. The increase in the production of yarn was due to the production of heavier counts for coarser cloth. Also the cloth market having been dull the mills increased their yarn output to supply a possible demand from the hand loom industry.

The total amount of duty collected was 1 crore 87 lakhs, 59 lakhs more than last year.

The number of mills working in the Bombay Presidency was as shown in the following table :—

Kind of Mill.	1923-24				1924-1925			
	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Other Districts.	Total.	Bombay.	Ahmedabad.	Other Districts.	Total.
Spinning	10	7	3	20	11	9	3	23
Spinning and Weaving ..	66	42	15	123	67	40	12	119
Weaving	5	17	10	32	4	14	13	31
Hosiery	3	2	..	5	2	2	..	4
Total ..	84	68	28	180	84	65	28	177

STAMPS

The Report of the Administration of the Stamp Department showed that the revenue derived during the year, both in the Presidency proper and in Sind, amounted to Rs. 172 lakhs of which Rs. 90 lakhs were collected under the Stamp Act and Rs. 82 lakhs under the Court Fees Act. The

corresponding figures for the preceding year were Rs. 183½ lakhs, Rs. 93 lakhs and Rs. 90½ lakhs respectively.

To the total collections under the Court Fees Act realised in the Presidency proper Bombay City alone contributed Rs. 34,71,000 showing a decrease of Rs. 3,66,000 over the last year's receipts.

From amongst the Districts, Ahmedabad, Dharwar, Kaira, East Khandesh, West Khandesh, Nasik, Poona, Surat and Thana contributed to the total revenue Rs. 3,97,000, 2,50,000, 2,03,000, 4,17,000, 2,12,000, 2,33,000, 3,88,000, 2,09,000 and Rs. 2,11,000, respectively. Small amounts ranging from Rs. one lakh and upwards were realised in seven other Districts, *viz.*, Ahmednagar, Belgaum, Bijapur, Kolaba, Ratnagiri, Satara and Sholapur.

Taking the Presidency as a whole, there was a fall of over 2¾ lakhs in revenue under the Stamp Act. The decrease in the revenue for the Presidency proper came to nearly 3¾ lakhs, but this was counterbalanced by a small increase of Rs. 79,000 in Sind. The decrease was due to slackness of trade and general commercial depression which had adversely affected the Presidency proper, and more particularly Bombay City, where revenue under this head fell from Rs. 51·96 lakhs in 1923-24 to Rs. 48·36 lakhs in the year under report. The principal decreases in the Presidency were nearly two lakhs under "Miscellaneous," a little over one lakh under share transfer stamps and over half a lakh under impressed stamps and labels. Banking transactions did not however show any falling off, but on the contrary a slight increase.

The following figures for Sind for the four years after 1920-21, which was a boom year for trade and land speculation, indicate that that Province has experienced no setback so far at least as revenue from non-judicial stamps is concerned :—

Year	Rs.
1921-22	8 lakhs.
1922-23	9·58 lakhs.
1923-24	10·29 lakhs.
1924-25	11·08 lakhs.

As was to be expected from the repeal of the Bombay Court Fees Amendment Act with effect from 1st April 1924, there is a heavy drop in the revenue under the Court Fees Act, the Presidency proper showing a decrease of about Rs. 7·30 lakhs and Sind of about Rs. 1·32 lakhs.

The expenditure involved in the working of the two Acts for the years 1923-24 and 1924-25 was Rs. 6·13 lakhs and Rs. 5·48 lakhs.

The decrease in the expenditure during the year of report was due mainly to the reduction by 33⅓ per cent. in the rates of discount paid to licensed vendors owing to the increase in stamp duty on non-judicial stamps and also to the sale by departmental agency of share transfer stamps in Bombay City.

Only six prosecutions under the Stamp Act were instituted. One in Bombay City, one in the of district Bijapur and four in the Hyderabad District. Of these, three ended in acquittal.

TAXES ON INCOME

The assessments for the year 1924-25 were based on the profits earned during a year of all-round trade depression in the Bombay Presidency. Many businesses resulted in heavy losses even though the turnover was very good. With falling prices, the margin of profit dwindled down to nothing and, at times, to get rid of the surplus stocks, sales below cost had to be made. The cotton mill industry, says the report of the Commissioner of Income Tax, on which the prosperity of the Presidency depends a good deal, suffered the most. Their profits in 1923 were the lowest since 1915. From the maximum of about 16½ crores in 1920, they shrank to 2¾ crores only in 1923.

"As regards trade in general, piece-goods business has been particularly reported to have been dull throughout the year, though the wholesale dealers in other commodities too had hardly any better luck. Banking business was a little better than the previous year because of the pressing demand for money even at a high rate of interest from traders in difficulties. Dealers in raw cotton had a steady income excepting those inclined to wild speculation."

The extraordinary slump in trade and industry resulted in a decrease of Rs. 79½ lakhs in the income-tax collections which fell from Rs. 3 crores, 54 lakhs for 1923-24 to Rs. 2 crores, 74½ lakhs for 1924-25. Of this decrease, cotton mills alone were responsible for Rs. 74 lakhs. Of the total collections 81½ lakhs were collected from companies, registered firms, and holders of Government of India and other securities, and 1 crore and 91 lakhs from individuals, unregistered firms and Hindu undivided families, the total income on which the tax was assessed being 11 crores, 82 lakhs and 39 crores, 58 lakhs respectively. The number of individuals, unregistered firms and Hindu undivided families paying income-tax was 67,344. The largest number is to be found in the class whose incomes range from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,499 per year, the total being 18,545 and the tax collected amounting to over 8½ lakhs. The next highest class is between Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 4,999, the figure being 10,636 and the tax collected amounting to 11 lakhs.

Persons with income of Rs. 50,000 and over numbered 1,055 paying 51½ lakhs income-tax on an assessed income of 5½ crores.

Super-tax.—Super-tax collections fell from Rs. 1 crore, 81 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore, 22¾ lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 58¼ lakhs. This decrease included Rs. 48⅓ lakhs, on account of the cotton spinning and weaving mill companies. The remaining decrease was due to the fall in the income from dividends, general trade depression, as also the formation of bogus

companies and firms to avoid this tax. There were 11 private individuals and 1 Hindu undivided family in the Bombay Presidency whose assessable incomes to super-tax amounted to more than 5 lakhs per year and between them they paid nearly 32¼ lakhs in super-tax. The number of companies paying super-tax on 5 lakhs and over was 53, the amount of tax paid by them being 37$\frac{4}{5}$ lakhs.

The Bombay Presidency therefore raised in super-tax and income-tax Rs. 3 crores, 97¼ lakhs, a decrease of 1 crore, 37¾ lakhs over the previous year.

Good progress continues in educating the assessees especially in Bombay City. Out of 78,772 returns of income called for for the whole Presidency, 71,437 returns or nearly 90 per cent. were filed last year. In Bombay City, the percentage of returns filed rose from 66 to 77 in the year under report. But there has been no diminution at all in the attempts to conceal income or sources of income on the part of the tax-payers. Several examples of these attempts could be cited. One assessee in Bombay City persisted in claiming a certain amount as a bad debt saying that it was on account of a loan advanced several years ago. When the original accounts pertaining to this so-called loan transaction were seen by the Assistant Commissioner, he found that it was not at all a loan but money paid by the assessee for the purchase of shares in a certain limited company! Four assessees declared that they kept no accounts but when the Income Tax Officers concerned visited their shops, they found that regular accounts were being kept. One assessee did not fill in his return of income but produced accounts showing an income of Rs. 8,000 only. As the Income Tax Officer had information that he had other income which he was concealing, tax was levied on Rs. 40,000 which he paid. One shop-keeper kept two bogus accounts in which he used to credit a part of his sale receipts thus working out a loss in his purchase and sale account. Another shop-keeper credited profit earned by sale of gold and silver to the account of his two sons. A man with 25 houses in Bombay declared income from one of them only. He was caught and penalised. A cotton broker and dealer pretended every year that he was working as a broker only. Accounts of other traders having shown that he was buying and selling cotton on his own account too, he too was penalised. The agent of a certain limited company in Ahmedabad was detected attempting to get refund a second time by putting in a duplicate counterpart of a dividend warrant. He was prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to one day's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000. Nowhere in the Presidency is the attempt to evade and avoid the tax so very persistent as in Bombay City and Ahmedabad.

"An important problem which presents itself for solution," says the Commissioner of Income Tax, "is to find out a way to prevent the very serious loss of revenue by the formation of bogus firms and companies.

Rich men hitherto rested content with forming themselves into a single private company thereby paying super-tax at the flat rate of one anna instead of the graduated rates. From the past year, they have begun to convert themselves into a number of private limited companies, the income of each of which being barely above Rs. 50,000 hardly any super-tax is payable. This multiplication of bogus companies, will, if it spreads further, soon deprive Government of a very considerable portion of its super-tax revenue if drastic steps to prevent it are not taken at a very early date."

Referring to the re-organised Department of Income Tax, the Commissioner of Income Tax says: "The new Department is reported to be a success everywhere both from the point of view of Government and the tax-payers. The new Income-Tax Officers selected from amongst experienced Inspectors and Examiners have uniformly turned out good work. The main advantage of having a special Department lies in the more even distribution of the burden of taxation through its agency. It aims at making a man pay what is justly due under the law with the minimum amount of trouble to him. I have often come across assessees whose sole objection to pay the proper amount of tax was that their neighbours were underassessed. The new Department is credited with expert knowledge likely to prevent such under-assessments and this fact makes the assessees bear this burden with less resentment than formerly. Our officers have the strictest injunctions from the Commissioner to be most courteous in dealing with assessees and this is very much appreciated especially in the mofussil."

CHAPTER XI

INSTRUCTION

FOR educational purposes each district, besides the City of Bombay, is provided with a Deputy Inspector with assistants, and there are five Inspectors above them, one for each of the four Educational divisions into which the Presidency proper is now divided and one for the province of Sind. Besides these there are Special Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors for certain subjects. The control of the whole department is vested in the Director of Public Instruction who has under him a Deputy Director, a senior member of the Indian Educational Service.

The principal educational institution in the Presidency is the **University of Bombay,** which alone has the power of conferring degrees recognised as a special qualification for appointments and promotions to posts in Government service. The University also provides facilities for post-graduate teaching.

Below the University are the several affiliated **Colleges** which prepare students for the University examinations. At present there are 17 such colleges teaching the Arts courses, *viz.*, the Elphinstone, Deccan, Gujarat, Karnatak, Wilson, St. Xavier's, Dayaram Jethmal, Fergusson, New Poona, Willingdon, Surat, Sind National College, Hyderabad, Nasik, Bahauddin, Samaldas, Rajaram and Baroda and six colleges providing instruction in professional courses, *viz.*, the College of Engineering, N. E. D. Civil Engineering College, Karachi, the Grant Medical College, the College of Agriculture, the Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics and the Government Law College.

The Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, opened in 1920, provides facilities for post-graduate research work in Science in addition to the ordinary degree courses in Science.

Below the Colleges come the **High Schools,** usually at least one, either Government or aided, at the headquarter town of each district. These prepare students for the School Leaving Examination held by the Joint Examination Board which has replaced both the University Matriculation and the Departmental School Final Examination, the latter of which qualifies for admission into the lower branches of the public service.

Side by side with the High Schools there are the **Middle Schools** which teach the first few standards only of the secondary school course of seven standards. There are also in some places separate high and middle schools for girls.

Below the secondary schools are a large number of **Primary Schools** both for boys and girls in which instruction is given in the vernacular to the vast mass of the people.

There are also institutions for the training of teachers for both secondary and primary schools maintained by Government, *viz.*, the Secondary Training College, Bombay, and the Vernacular Training Colleges for men and women at Ahmedabad, Poona, Dhulia (for men only), Dharwar and Hyderabad. A certain number of district training schools have also been opened during the decade.

For technical and industrial education, there are the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, and the Reay Art Workshops attached to it, the V. J. Technical Institute, Bombay, which is now recognised as the central technological institution for the Presidency, the Workshop classes of the College of Engineering, Poona, the School of Engineering attached to the D. J. Sind College at Karachi and a number of technical and industrial schools, notably the Ranchhodlal Chhotalal Technical Institute, Ahmedabad, the Parekh School of Art, Surat, the Sir D. M. Petit Industrial School, Ahmednagar, the School of Industry at Ratnagiri and the V. J. Technical Institute, Sukkur.

For the proper selection of text-books for use in secondary and primary schools there are six special committees : one, known as the Provincial School Book Committee, for the consideration of books for use in secondary schools, and five Vernacular School Book Committees for the consideration of books in Marathi, Gujarati, Kanarese, Sindhi and Urdu.

A Committee of Direction for Technical Education has also been constituted during the decade.

EDUCATION

Bombay Presidency.—The number of pupils receiving education in the Presidency is approaching the million mark. The total number of recognised educational institutions in British Districts increased by 354 to 13,814 and the pupils in them by 29,242 to 972,916. The number of unrecognised institutions and the pupils in them decreased by 56 and 12,410 respectively. The net increase in the number of institutions and that of pupils was thus 298 and 16,832 respectively. The percentage of male scholars under instruction in all kinds of institutions to the male population was 8·11 as against 7·99 in the preceding year, while that of female scholars under instruction to the female population was 2·14 as against 2·10. In the Indian States the percentage of male scholars was 6·8 against 6·7 while that of female scholars remained stationary at 0·6.

Hindu pupils in recognised institutions in British Districts numbered 755,151, Mahomedans 162,334, Indian Christians 31,098, Parsis 16,744, and European and Anglo-Indians 4,471. Among the rest are included 598 Sikhs and 45 Budhists. In British Districts, out of a total of 26,731 towns and villages, 9,808 possessed schools, the average area served by

each town or village with a school being 12·6 square miles. In Indian States the average area served was 15·1 square miles.

The total expenditure on Public Instruction rose by over 12½ lakhs to about Rs. 339 lakhs; Government funds contributed 54·3 per cent., District Local Board funds 3·7 per cent., Municipal Board funds 11·5 per cent.; fees 17·7 per cent. and other sources 12·8 per cent. Primary schools absorbed over Rs. 169¾ lakhs exclusive of expenditure on inspection, construction, and repairs. Expenditure on buildings, furniture, and apparatus in recognised institutions amounted to nearly Rs. 17½ lakhs, an increase of nearly a lakh. The expenditure in respect of recognised institutions in the Indian States rose by Rs. 22,370 to nearly Rs. 15½ lakhs.

University.—The number of candidates for the School Leaving Examination for the purposes of Matriculation increased by 611 to 8,343, of whom 3,912 or 46·9 per cent. passed. The percentage of successful candidates at this examination last year was 56·4. There were 882 successful candidates out of 2,018 examined for the Intermediate Examination in Arts, the percentage of passes being 43·7. The number of successful candidates at the B.A. examination held in October 1924, and April 1925, was 606 against 645 in the preceding year. Of these, 192 obtained Honours—18 in class I and 174 in class II. At the B.Sc. examination 128 candidates out of 247 examined were successful. Of the 111 candidates for the M.A. examination 62 passed—2 in class I and 18 in class II. In examinations for Professional Degrees, excluding the Medical examinations, there were 519 successful candidates. The expenditure of the University as distinct from the individual Colleges, and from the School of Economics maintained by the University itself, was more than Rs. 5 lakhs.

Arts Colleges.—The total number of students in the 14 Arts Colleges (including the Royal Institute of Science and the University School of Economics) rose by 1,196 to 7,092, including 363 women, as against 280 in the preceding year. The total expenditure on all Arts Colleges (excluding the Royal Institute of Science and the University School of Economics) was over Rs. 16 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 1,84,000 over the cost of the same colleges last year.

Professional Colleges.—The attendance at the Government Law College, Bombay, fell by 316 to 568 owing to the opening of a Law College at Poona, which had an attendance of 406. The number of pupils receiving instruction in Commerce fell by 123 to 257, and the number of those receiving instruction in Engineering increased by 2 to 301. The decrease in the former is partly due to 92 pupils from the Accountancy Diploma class (which is not a course for a University degree) having been transferred to 'Commercial Schools.'

Education in Art.—The number of students at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, rose by 51 to 427, while at the Ahmedabad School of Drawing

and Design there was a decrease of 3 to 30. The Reay Art Workshops in the Sir J. J. School of Art had an attendance of 148 as against 118 in the preceding year.

Technical and Industrial Education.—Technical and Industrial schools decreased by 2 to 31 and the number of pupils in them by 205 to 2,202. The expenditure on these schools also fell by Rs. 61,000 to Rs. 5,31,000.

Secondary Schools (General).—The total number of Secondary schools in the British Districts and the Indian States increased by 5 to 579 and the number of pupils in them by 5,825 to 99,372, the total expenditure being over Rs. 70 lakhs, a rise of about Rs. 5 lakhs.

High Schools.—High Schools for boys increased by 11 to 196 and the number of pupils in them by 4,613 to 65,695. The number of High Schools for girls remained stationary at 47 but the attendance rose by 270 to 8,663.

Middle Schools.—The number of Middle Schools for boys fell by 2 to 300 but the attendance rose by 788 to 22,029. The number of Middle Schools for girls also fell by 4 to 36 while the attendance rose by 154 to 2,985.

Primary Schools.—In British Districts Primary schools for boys increased by 309 to 11,418 and the number of pupils by 18,122 to 739,836. All the Divisions except the Southern Division show an increase both in the number of schools and in the number of pupils. The decrease in the Southern Division is reported to have been wholly in aided schools. The total number of girls under instruction in Primary schools was 170,414, an increase of 4,260.

In Indian States Primary schools for boys increased by 56 to 1,939 and the attendance by 2,277 to 117,331. Girls' schools also increased by 6 to 162 and the attendance by 152 to 11,653.

The number of District Local Board and Municipal Schools for boys and girls increased by 400 to 10,230, and the number of pupils in them by 23,172 to 718,195. The corresponding increases last year were 48 and 22,897. Aided schools decreased by 77 to 2,508 and the pupils in them by 2,371 to 125,607. Unaided schools, however, increased by 25 to 118, and the pupils in them by 1,450 to 6,154. The number of schools for adults remained stationary at 213 while the pupils increased by 593 to 7,559. The total expenditure on Primary education in British Districts rose by over 3 lakhs to Rs. 1,69,87,000. Of this Government contributed Rs. 107 lakhs, District Local Boards funds Rs. 8·6 lakhs, Municipal funds Rs. 34·9 lakhs, Fees Rs. 5·8 lakhs, and other sources Rs. 13·5 lakhs. In Indian States the expenditure decreased by Rs. 14,844 to Rs. 9,03,000.

Training Institutions.—There were 13 Training institutions for men with 1,077 pupils, and 21 for women with 744 pupils. Of the Training institutions for men, 12 with 1,032 pupils were in British Districts—11

with an attendance of 956 under Public management and 1 with 76 pupils under private management. One Training institution for men with 45 pupils was maintained by the Kolhapur State.

Of the Training institutions for women 6 with 283 students under public management and 15 with 461 pupils under private management were in British Districts. No Training institution for women was maintained by any Indian State.

Mahomedans.—The total number of Mahomedans under instruction in recognised institutions in British Districts increased by 5,332 to 162,334, of whom 23,299 were in girls' schools. The number of Mahomedan pupils in Arts Colleges increased by 48 to 333, but the number in Professional colleges decreased by 6 to 100. In Secondary schools the number increased by 614 to 7,053, in Primary schools by 4,326 to 149,690 and in Special schools by 399 to 5,158.

Intermediate Classes.—The total number of pupils under instruction increased by 7,571 to 382,754, classified as follows :—

(1) Marathas	107,879
(2) Cultivators (Kolis, Kunbis, etc.)	146,794
(3) Artisans	61,451
(4) Lingayats	66,630

Increases were also shown by—

Aboriginal and Hill Tribes	1,716 to 15,167
Criminal Tribes	2,785 to 9,314
Depressed Classes	2,652 to 50,429

Reformatory Schools.—There are three Reformatory Schools and Apprentices Homes with 525 pupils (an increase of 16) which are under the control of the Educational Department. There is also a Borstal institution with 204 pupils (a decrease of 7) managed by the Jail Department.

Aden.—The total number of recognised educational institutions in Aden remained stationary at 37 but the number of pupils in them rose by 162 to 2,169. The number of unrecognised institutions increased by 12 to 19 and the pupils in them by 160 to 643. The net increases in the number of institutions and in that of pupils were thus 12 and 322 respectively. The percentage of the male scholars under instruction in all kinds of institutions to the male population was 6·3 as against 5·4 in the preceding year, while that of the female scholars under instruction to the female population was 2·1 as against 1·9 in the preceding year.

Hindu pupils in recognised institutions numbered 178, Mahomedans 1,747, Indian Christians 54, Parsis 32, and European and Anglo-Indians 53. There were no Sikhs or Budhists under instruction.

The total expenditure on public instruction decreased by Rs. 2,925 to Rs. 94,596. Government funds contributed 40·0 per cent., Municipal funds 5·9 per cent., fees 13·4 per cent., and other sources 40·7 per cent. Primary schools absorbed Rs. 25,108, exclusive of expenditure on

inspection, construction and repairs. Expenditure on buildings, furniture, and apparatus in recognised institutions amounted to Rs. 283 as against Rs. 571 in the preceding year.

Technical and Industrial Education.—The Industrial School, Crater, which is the only school of its kind in Aden, had an attendance of 51 as against 22 in the preceding year. The expenditure on the school increased by Rs. 477 to Rs. 3,583.

Secondary Education (General).—The total number of Secondary schools in Aden remained stationary at 10 but the attendance increased by 4 to 573. The total expenditure decreased by Rs. 40 to Rs. 56,956.

Middle Schools.—The number of Middle Schools for boys and girls was the same as last year, *viz.*, 7 and 3 respectively. The attendance in the former rose by 18 to 406 while that in the latter fell by 14 to 167.

Primary Schools.—The number of Primary Schools for boys decreased by 2 to 16 but the number of pupils increased by 34 to 1,212. The total number of girls under instruction in Primary schools was 241 as against 242 in the preceding year. There are no District Local Board or Municipal Primary schools in Aden.

Schools for adults remained stationary at 3 but the pupils increased by 51 to 110. The total expenditure on Primary education decreased by Rs. 2,661 to Rs. 25,108, of which 31·2 per cent. was met from Government funds, 19·9 per cent. from Municipal funds, 9·9 per cent. from fees, and 39·0 per cent. from other sources.

Mahomedans.—The total number of Mahomedans in recognised institutions decreased by 22 to 1,747, of which 163 were in girls' schools. The number in Secondary schools decreased by 7 to 282, in Primary schools by 47 to 1,310, while the number in special schools increased by 22 to 155.

Intermediate Classes.—The number of pupils under instruction increased by 5 to 6, of which all were Marathas.

No pupils belonging to (1) Aboriginal and Hill Tribes, (2) Criminal Tribes, or (3) Depressed classes were under instruction in 1923-24 and 1924-25.

There is no Reformatory Institution in Aden.

YERAVDA REFORMATORY

There were 144 juveniles in the Reformatory School at Yeravda at the end of 1924. Of these 102 were Hindus, 37 Muhamadans and 5 Christians. "The general behaviour of the lads was satisfactory and insubordination or disobedience was conspicuous by its absence", says the Superintendent of the Reformatory School. "The number of minor offences was 29 involving 38 boys, while only one boy, a new-comer, tried to escape but was soon caught and brought back to the Reformatory. Caning, loss of monitorship, penal diet, etc., were the ordinary punishments inflicted for breaches of discipline."

Tailoring has been added to the five trades already taught in the school, where 25 boys are engaged in carpentry, 17 in smithy work, 19 in painting, 13 in book-binding, 11 in tailoring and 59 in agriculture or gardening.

Primary instruction continues to be given in the school up to Marathi and Gujarati 5th standard, while arrangements are being made to give instruction in Urdu also for the benefit of the Muhamadan boys. Special attention is given to moral instruction, and a special feature of the school is the direct participation of the staff in all school games.

There were 40 admissions to the school during the year while the number discharged was 47. The after career of the 102 boys discharged during the last three years shows interesting results. Only 9 of them appear to have been reconvicted, 15 are untraceable, and one is dead. The remainder are in employment or are with friends.

The gross maintenance charges amounted to Rs. 45,265 as compared with Rs. 41,795 in the previous year. The total earnings of the school amounted to Rs. 2,664. The average net cost per boy works at about Rs. 290 a year.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

In a note on the Vernacular Literature of the Presidency in 1924-25 Mr. A. C. Farran, acting Principal, Deccan College, Poona, remarks that—

"The list of books contains practically nothing that is really original in matter or outstanding in literary merit. Translations are numerous in all branches but many complaints are made of their inadequacy and inaccuracy.

"There does not seem to be much alteration in the nature of the articles published in the vernacular journals in the period under review. Philosophical articles are very numerous but are generally only commentaries on small points in the Vedas, which have been treated dozens of times before, or else rhapsodics full of noble but conventional sentiments. History is represented by some articles of antiquarian interest, but few illuminating papers have been published; unbalanced eulogies (or the reverse) of such figures as Shivaji, Sambhaji, etc., are frequent. Political articles are more interesting. The traditional attacks on 'foreign' Government continue and even papers of good standing and otherwise sane continue to get over the difficulties in the way of immediate self-government by ignoring them or declaring them already solved. 'Samalochaka' which is the leading Gujarati magazine and publishes many good articles, lends itself to this very frequently. 'The Happy Day' is a poem in its pages celebrating the Coconada Congress when Hindu-Muslim unity became 'an accomplished fact'. 'Our rule is for your sake' is a sarcastic commentary on the speeches and actions of British Statesmen and contains the startling complaint that while England has learnt the wisdom of the East, she firmly locks the door against all Indians

wishing to study in Britain: Still such articles do not seem quite as numerous as previously and much attention is now given to social reform, about which a vast number of papers have been published. The number of these articles is suggestive, though few give concrete schemes; still, even in magazines of violent political tone the need of social change to precede political is often acknowledged.

"It is a pity that economic questions are not better treated; there is a real need for well-informed articles on economic problems which would be understood by the general reader; nearly all papers on economics suffer from political bias. Education suffers in the same way; much is written about it which is purely political and the real subject is neglected. 'Nava Shikshaka,' a journal devoted exclusively to education, is an exception and even deals with such mundane matters as school buildings, lighting, and equipment.

"A considerable number of lady contributors is to be noticed, also that popular articles on science and inventions seem to be increasingly appreciated, judging by their number."

The total number of publications registered during the year increased by 168 to 3,568; out of these 2,258 were books and 1,310 issues of periodicals. The languages used were Gujarati (642), Marathi (517), Sindhi (274), English (233), Hindi (86), Classical languages (68), Kanarese (60), Urdu (57), Konkani and other dialects (38), while 283 books were in more than one language.

NEWSPAPERS

At the end of the year 1924 there were in all 205 newspapers dealing with current political topics as against 194 newspapers in the previous year. Fifty-eight newspapers were started during the year under report, but 47 publications having ceased to exist, there was a net increase of 11 publications. Of these 205 newspapers, 59 were published in the City of Bombay; 27 in the Northern Division; 35 in the Central Division; 33 in the Southern Division; 42 in Sind; and 9 in the Indian States. Eighty or about 39 per cent. were in the hands of Brahmins; 73 were conducted by other Hindus; 5 by Jains; 18 by Parsis; 23 by Muhammadans; and 6 by Christians. Eight per cent. were published in English; 32 per cent. in Marathi; 19 per cent. in Gujarati; 2 per cent. in Hindi; 4 per cent. in Kanarese; 3 per cent. in Urdu; 16 per cent. in Sindhi and the remaining 16 per cent. were bi-lingual or tri-lingual newspapers.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, BOMBAY

The increase of admissions to membership from 92 to 102 illustrates sufficiently the general healthy condition of the Bombay Branch Royal Asiatic Society, and the enduring attractions of its library, also the increasing difficulty of maintaining a reasonable supply and circulation of books and journals. The Society had 536 resident and 165 non-resident

members at the close of the year 1924. The issues of books and periodicals during the year amounted to 59,000 of which 13,500 were new books, 21,500 periodicals and 24,000 old books. The largest issue, about 19,000, was under fiction, while miscellaneous stood second (2,200) and biography third (2,100). During the year 1,849 volumes were added to the Library, of which 1,433 were purchased and 416 were presented. Fifty-two new coins were added to the cabinet of the Society. The Society received 2,151 Treasure Trove coins during the year. Government sanctioned Rs. 5,000 for shelving in 1924.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, BOMBAY

The number of visitors to the Museum was 970,000 against 1,260,000 in 1923-24, giving a daily average of about 3,100 visitors to the Museum. An Industrial section has been opened in which it is proposed to keep objects manufactured in different parts of the country. A large number of specimens of ivory, metalware, carved wood-work and economic products were added to the Museum. Certain Archæological specimens were transferred to the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India.

PRINCE OF WALES MUSEUM OF WESTERN INDIA, BOMBAY

The Museum continues to grow rapidly in popularity. Many learned and distinguished persons and students in addition to large numbers of the general public visited it, and have been assisted with information required by them.

In the Archæological section additional exhibits of interest have been placed on view, including antiquities from Kolur, Bijapur District, fresco paintings from Konkar Wada, Poona, Assyrian bas-reliefs from the Victoria and Albert Museums, Bombay, Himyarite inscription from Behan, and enamelled tiles from Sind.

Lady Ratan Tata made a further munificent gift to the Art section of ten interesting pictures which are a great source of attraction to the general public.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

A group case of a male and female Punjab corial on a limestone rock pedestal, a case illustrating a portion of the desert country in Sind with its typical animal and plant life, and an Indian bull bison (gaur) are striking features of the taxidermy department. A number of birds, especially beautiful pheasants from the Himalayas and Assam, have been added to the Bird gallery. A new nesting group of night herons on the branch of a mango tree is of special interest. In the Reptile gallery casts of banded krait and other snakes and bull frogs have been prepared. About 187 fresh specimens of snakes received have been classified.

Original notes and papers on various exhibits, such as Valabhi Copper-grants, Hindu Memorial stones, the South Indian Coins, the Larins, and

a paper on the snakes of Bombay Island and Salsette have been prepared and published in the Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Indian Antiquary and the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.

Popular guide books for the various galleries have been prepared and are being printed.

VICTORIA MUSEUM, KARACHI

The number of visitors to the Museum during the year 1924-25 was 280,000, showing a slight increase of 6,000, the largest number on a single day being 1,386. People visited the Museum in large numbers during public holidays and the attendance of ladies was considerably higher than in the previous year. Students of various schools and colleges accompanied by their teachers paid visits and Professors of the Dayaram Jethmal Sind College were permitted to use specimens of the Museum for illustrating their lectures. A large number of Zoologic specimens, chiefly of birds and fishes, have been substituted in the collection. Several important additions have been made to the Art and Industrial section, including specimens of the indigenous arts of the Presidency. A few Indian arms of old pattern and some precious stones and stone necklaces were purchased during the year.

Mohenjo-Daro (District Larkana, Sind). Well and paved baths.

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CHAPTER XII

ARCHÆOLOGY

DURING the year under report the conservation grant for protected monuments in the Presidency was Rs. 83,910 as compared with Rs. 81,000 for the previous year. Out of the total grant, Rs. 22,330 were placed at the disposal of the Archæological Department and Rs. 60,000 were spent by the Local Public Works Department both for annual repairs and maintenance and special repairs to monuments under their control.

Besides the special repair works in progress at Elephanta, Karla Caves near Poona, Galtesvar temple at Sarnal in Kaira District, the Portuguese remains in Bassein Fort, the Faria Bagh water palace at Ahmednagar and the Shanwar Wada remains at Poona, the following three works were taken in hand during the year (1) preservation of the great Nanaghat cave inscription near Junnar in the Poona District, (2) special repairs to the main archway of the fort at Jaigarh in the Ratnagiri District and (3) construction of caretaker's quarters and godowns at Mohenjo-daro in the Larkana District. Repairs to Sivaji's birth place at Shivneri near Junnar were taken in hand as a contribution work from the funds received from His Highness the late Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior through the Honourable Mr. B. V. Jadhav.

The Public Works Department carried out during the year special repairs to the Harem of Mirs at Hyderabad and the fort at Naokot in Thar and Parkar; the Bhamaria well at Mehmedabad in the Kaira District, the Shah Alam Roza at Ahmedabad and the Khan masjid at Dholka in the Ahmedabad District; the clearance of the water cistern at Elephanta; the palace at Niyamat Khan at Ahmednagar; the tomb of Afzul Khan at Pratapgad in the Satara District; the Gol Gumbaz, Gagan Mahal, Asar Mahal, Badi Kaman and Hydari Buruz at Bijapur; the Nari Mahal at Torvi near Bijapur; the Suvali temple and caves at Badami and the Charanti math at Aiholi in the Bijapur District and the Narasimha Devasthan at Bhatkal in the Kanara District.

Excavations at Mohenjo-daro were resumed in December 1924 and continued till the third week of March, the total expenditure amounting to Rs. 19,257. The remains of several dwelling-houses and shrines, and wells, reservoirs and pavements, etc., were uncovered in different parts of the prehistoric ruined city some of which are in a remarkable state of preservation. Over 7,000 objects were recovered of which the following deserve prominent mention; 175 inscribed objects (including seals and sealings of stone and paste, ivory dice, earthenware, gold ornaments, etc.),

several copper vessels, implements, etc., including a jar containing gold and silver ear-rings, pendants, hair pins, beads, and two necklaces of cornelian and copper; a painted vase of exquisite form and designs; a burnt-clay prism with figures of wild animals in relief; a tablet with human figures and a goat-drawn vehicle; besides very large number of pottery, terracotta human and animal figures, ivory, conch-shell and faience ornaments and household ware. The excavations have opened a new chapter in the history of Indian archæology and pushed back the age of Indian antiquities from the third century B.C. to the third millenium B.C. and beyond. This earliest known material culture of the lower Indus valley bears important affinities with the culture of the Sumerians of the Euphrates valley and the Elamites of south-west Persia.

The amount spent on the upkeep of the Archæological Department during the year was Rs. 42,447.

Mohenjo-Daro (District Larkana, Sind). Seals with pictographic writings.

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CHAPTER XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

THE Church Establishments maintained by the State in the Presidency are those of the Established Church of England and the Established Church of Scotland. Certain allowances are also granted by Government to the Roman Catholic Church and the Wesleyan Church for ministrations to troops, etc.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Since 1837 Bombay has been a separate Diocese.

The Diocese includes the territories within the limits of the Presidency of Bombay excepting Sind, which was transferred to the Diocese of Lahore in 1877.

The Right Reverend Edwin James Palmer, M.A., D.D., was on duty throughout the year.

The Venerable W. F. M. Hamerton, M.A., was appointed Archdeacon on the 25th March 1925 *vice* the Venerable C. F. W. Hatchell, M.A., retired.

The number of Chaplains in the Diocese during the year was 19 of whom 7 were on leave.

During the year no Chaplains joined the Establishment as the reduction of the cadre from 23 Chaplains to 17, in accordance with the Resolution of the Government of Bombay, was in process. This reduction will be completed soon after the close of the year under report.

The number of confirmations increased from 663 to 712 and there were five ordinations.

The Reverend Philip Henry Loyd, M.A., Head of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Mission, Ahmednagar, was consecrated to be Assistant Bishop in the Diocese, in St. Thomas' Cathedral, Bombay, on Sunday the 22nd March 1925, by the Most Reverend the Metropolitan assisted by the Bishops of Bombay, Madras and Dornakal. Bishop Loyd has been placed in charge of the Mission Districts of Ahmednagar and Aurangabad.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The Church of Scotland in this Presidency was placed on its present basis in 1837. Of the four Chaplains now holding appointments, one is of the Senior rank, one is a Junior Chaplain, and the other two are

Chaplains on probation. Two Chaplains in the employment of the Army Department are at present serving under the jurisdiction of the Presidency Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland.

There are at present five Presbyterian Churches and several other buildings used for Divine service scatteted throughout the Presidency of Bombay.

The Reverend A. M. Nelson, Presidency Senior Chaplain, was permitted to retire from the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment on the 18th February 1925. The Reverend R. G. Jamieson was officiating Presidency Senior Chaplain and Senior Chaplain of St. Andrew's Church, Bombay, from March 1924 to 10th November 1924, when he became officiating Presidency Senior Chaplain, Bengal. He was confirmed as Presidency Senior Chaplain, Bombay, on the 18th February 1925 but continued officiating as Presidency Senior Chaplain, Bengal, till the 21st March 1925 when he was confirmed in the latter appointment, and the Reverend J. D. Mitchell, who was acting for him in Bombay, was confirmed as Presidency Senior Chaplain and Senior Chaplain of St. Andrew's Church, Bombay.

During 1924-25 St. Andrew's Church, Bombay, and the Churches at Quetta and Karachi were served by Chaplains on the Bombay Ecclesiastical Establishment of the Church of Scotland. At Poona, Kirkee, Aden and Nasirabad, the duties of Chaplains were performed by Missionaries of the United Free Church of Scotland, at Mhow by a Missionary of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission of Central India, at Deesa and Mount Abu by a Missionary of the Irish Presbyterian Church and at Belgaum by a Missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

All Chaplains and acting Chaplains of the Church of Scotland minister to His Majesty's Forces and Civilians.

STATIONERY

A noteworthy feature of the year was the taking over by the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps, Delhi, of the supply of all articles of stationery to officers of the Central Government in the Bombay Presidency, the only exceptions being the Postal and Telegraph Departments. This afforded the Stationery Office much needed relief. During the year the office undertook the additional work of supplying various petty articles such as bath bricks, candles, etc., which were hitherto purchased by each individual officer locally. The work has developed both economically and efficiently without additional expenditure. Permanent establishment has been engaged for repairing typewriters and during the year 228 machines were repaired by the office and 78 machines were entrusted to local repairers. Most of the paper required for printing and writing was supplied by the Titaghar Paper Mills, Calcutta, and Messrs. D. Pudumjee & Company, Bombay.

PRINTING

During the year the new costing system, the outcome of the Superintendents' conference at Delhi, was introduced from 1st April 1924 at the Government Central Press, Bombay. The most prominent feature of this system was the recognition of a number of items, such as pension, interest on capital, audit charges, etc., as part and parcel of manufacturing costs. Working expenses rose from Rs. 6½ lakhs to Rs. 7¼ lakhs, and the cost of paper, binding and rubber stamp materials was Rs. 1½ lakhs. The total value of the work done for Government offices and Departments was nearly Rs. 7 lakhs.

The outturn at the Yeravda Prison Press showed an appreciable decrease particularly in the composing section owing to the reduction in the consumption of standard forms and on several occasions sufficient work could not be found for the paid compositors. On the whole the net result of the year's outturn compares unfavourably with that of the last year to the extent of 33 per cent. The figures depict a substantial advance in costs owing to the smaller outturn, the inclusion of charges for pension, etc., consequent on the introduction of the new system of accounts, and the increased cost of convict labour which rose from Rs. 140-9-4 to Rs. 273-12-0 per head per annum. The total value of the work done was Rs. 3½ lakhs and at the Commissioner in Sind's Press, Karachi, over Rs. 1⅓ lakhs.

The total value of maps issued from the Government Book Depôt, Poona, was Rs. 3,898 against Rs. 5,291 in the preceding year, and realisations from the sales of publications amounted to Rs. 14,500 against Rs. 17,300.

The total turnover of the Government Photozinco Press, Poona, was Rs. 1,40,300.

BOMBAY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Work on the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme and on the Housing Scheme made steady progress during the year. The property market continued in a depressed condition, although there was a slight improvement compared with 1923-24. Expenditure in the suburban area was reduced to the minimum required to complete partly finished works and no new works were undertaken except in connection with the distribution of water, the cost of which is recovered by sale proceeds of water. Building operations in completed town planning schemes showed signs of activity, but road making in schemes in hand was largely in abeyance owing to the inability of the local authorities to provide funds. The establishment, both in the Housing and Suburban Divisions, was very considerably reduced.

In August 1924 Government requested the Advisory Committee to report how far and in what directions the activities of the Development Department should be continued or eliminated. Four members of the

Bombay Legislative Council were invited to join the Committee for the purpose of the enquiry, but only one, Mr. A. N. Surve, accepted the invitation. The Committee submitted an interim report in February 1925 dealing with the Reclamation and Housing Schemes as well as with the four Bombay Schemes. As regards the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme, the Committee reserved their opinion pending examination of the financial prospects by a sub-committee which they proposed to appoint. Their most important recommendation was that work on the East Colaba Reclamation should be closed down for the present, and that the advisability or otherwise of going on with it should be reconsidered when the filling of the Back Bay Reclamation is nearing completion.

BACK BAY RECLAMATION

By the close of the working season the mass concrete wall had been completed for the whole length of the rubble mound, and the wall finished in all respects except for a gap of 1,800 feet.

Dredging Section.—The main feature of the year's work was the combined pumping operations at Colaba with the dredger "Sir George Lloyd" worked in conjunction with the intermediate pumping station "Colaba". Dredging operations for the season 1923-24 were stopped on the 15th of May 1924, when the plant was laid up for the monsoon during which all the craft were overhauled. Pumping operations, with double shifts, began on the 6th of December. The maximum length of discharge pipe from the dredger to the outlet in the military area was 10,123 feet. During the season, up to 31st March 1925 a total of about 13 lakhs cubic yards of material had been pumped ashore and deposited in the military area.

Dredging in Back Bay with the "Kalu" was commenced on 28th November 1924, but owing to insufficient depth of water at low tide, it was necessary to confine dredging operations to a few hours at each high tide, during day light, until a sufficient excavation had been made to enable the dredger to float at all states of the tide. Unfortunately a layer of hard clay and sandstone was found which delayed the work and, as flotation had not been secured by the end of the season, the progress made was disappointing.

By the end of the working season 259,555 square yards, or 53·6 acres, of the military area at Colaba had been filled with dredged material to within an average of 3 feet below the finished level, the average depth of filling being 10 feet.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING IN BOMBAY

Owing to the orders of Government that no further chawls should be commenced till those in hand were fully completed, the programme resolved itself into one of the completing, as far as possible, the 211 chawls at Worli Naigaum, DeLisle Road and Sewri sites.

At Worli the equivalent of about 45 chawls were constructed, whilst the sewerage scheme for the whole area was practically completed during the year. Estimates for roads, drains and water supply systems were prepared and sanctioned.

At Naigaum the chawls of plot A were finished in every respect, whilst those of plot B were almost completed before the end of the year.

At DeLisle Road all chawls together with roads, sewers, storm-water drains and water-supply systems were completed during the year.

At Sewri the equivalent of 7½ chawls were completed, but owing to difficulties connected with water-supply and drainage, only two chawls could be handed over for letting.

SUBURBAN INDUSTRIAL SCHEMES

There was no further development in Suburban Scheme No. 1—Kurla-Kirol during the year. The question of letting part of the area for cattle stables was under consideration. No works were carried out in Scheme No. 2—Trombay North-East, since the question of the removal of the tanneries from Dharavi is still unsettled. At Ambernath, Suburban Scheme No. 15, the Swedish Match Factory was completed and commenced working during the year, and a further area of about 1½ acres was taken up by the Company for extensions which were nearly finished by the end of the year. Enquiries on behalf of two important concerns regarding the erection of large factories in the area were dealt with during the year but the proposals did not mature. The small activated sludge plant was completed and brought into use during the year and is working satisfactorily. The arrangement of sidings for serving existing and future factory sites was settled with the G.I.P. Railway Company, and the earth work of the sidings most urgently required was in hand at the end of the year. Otherwise development work remained in abeyance pending erection of more factories. The temporary water-supply, which has been in use from the commencement of the development of Ambernath, was finally closed down in October 1924, when the entire distribution service was changed over in stages to the permanent supply. The power station was completed during the year and a medium pressure (440 volt) three phase service was brought into operation on the 1st October 1924.

SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

During the year under review, there was a slight but noticeable recovery in the land market in suburban Bombay. The downward movement of prices ceased and there was a steady enquiry from would-be plot-purchasers. One of the chief contributing factors to this awakened interest was the inauguration of the State-aided building scheme. Under this scheme, Government advances three-fourths of the price of the plot and, in addition, up to half the cost of the bungalow, the borrower repaying the loan in

5, 10 or 15 years by monthly instalments with 6 per cent. interest. The sum originally allotted for such advances was Rs. 3 lakhs, and by the end of the year, 37 plot purchasers had applied for advances totalling Rs. 2,50,991. This assistance is intended for those purchasing plots in Directorate schemes, whose means do not enable them to build a cottage costing more than Rs. 10,000, but in practice, some latitude, has been allowed in regard to this limit.

Extensive withdrawals from the acquisition of land took place during the year under review. In Trombay 982 acres and in Salsette 2,569 acres were released, and retiral from other areas not required in the near future will probably be arranged. The schemes in which development work was carried on during the year are noted below :—

Suburban Scheme No. 3—Trombay North-West.—In the Chembur Sector of this scheme, to which development has so far been restricted, there has been some enquiry for land. The plots disposed of include 70,000 square yards to the St. Anthony's Homes Society, which proposes to build model bungalows on 70 plots, and have reserved sites for a school and a church.

Suburban Scheme No. 4—Trombay, West.—The lands in this scheme, which covered a large sector of the Trombay Hill, have, with the exception of certain areas reserved meantime for the Port Trust, been withdrawn from acquisition.

Suburban Scheme No. 6—Danda.—Road making in the scheme was completed during the year to provide access to plots which have been sold at rates varying from Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 10 per square yard according to situation. In all 13,065 square yards had been disposed of in this scheme by the end of the year, out of a total of 80,806 square yards available. The Turner Road extension, which is to be carried out by the Catholic Housing Society, through whose scheme it passes, had not been commenced by the end of the year.

Suburban Scheme No. 7—Khar Model Suburb.—The new railway station was opened in July 1924 and 43 trains now stop daily. Sales of plots have proceeded briskly in sector B which is fully developed, and 134,649 square yards had been disposed of by 31st March 1925 out of a total net area of 583,691 square yards in the whole scheme. A number of houses have been constructed and building operations are proceeding at a rapid rate. Sales have also commenced in sector A.

Suburban Scheme No. 8—Chapel Road, Bandra.—Further sales of land during the year reduced the balance of land on hand to 9 plots, covering 7,946 square yards only, out of a total net area of 104,768 square yards. The scheme showed a small surplus on 31st March 1925, which will be increased by the proceeds of the remaining plots when sold.

Suburban Scheme No. 18—Kirol, North.—There was no further expenditure on development in this scheme during the year, but the five

roads constructed in 1923-24 were maintained in good order. Twelve plots, aggregating 21,258 square yards, were disposed of making a total area of 22,318 square yards sold in this scheme up to 31st March 1925.

In the remaining schemes no works were carried out and the schemes were held in abeyance.

Town Planning Schemes.—The works in Santa Cruz Town Planning Scheme No. 2, Vile Parle Town Planning Scheme No. 1 and Malad Town Planning Scheme No. 1 were at different stages, but owing to the inability of the Notified Area Committees to provide funds, they could not be completed during the year.

The following new town planning schemes were completed during the year :—

Ghatkopar Town Planning Scheme No. 1.
Santa Cruz Town Planning Scheme No. 3.
Vile Parle Town Planning Scheme No. 2.

A fourth scheme Vile Parle Town Planning Scheme No. 4 and 4-A was also finally drawn up, while two other schemes, *viz.*, Borivli Town Planning Scheme No. 2 and Santa Cruz Scheme No. 5, were in the preliminary arbitration stage.

WATER SUPPLY IN SALSETTE

The work of supplying pipe water to Santa Cruz and Juhu was completed early in the year under report at an actual cost of Rs. 1,24,713 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 1,43,095. A sufficient supply of water is now available for the whole of Santa Cruz and the southern portion of Juhu. The daily consumption rose considerably during the year, and by the time Santa Cruz Town Planning Schemes Nos. 3 and 4 are completed, a further substantial increase is likely.

Two additional works were sanctioned in connection with Andheri Water Supply Scheme, *viz.*, extensions to the Gaud Saraswat and Hindu Friends' Societies' estates. The whole work, including the extensions, was completed during the year and the supply made available from February 1925. The actual cost amounted to Rs. 1,38,535 against the estimate of Rs. 1,44,405.

RAILWAY SCHEMES

Suburban Scheme No. 17—Salsette-Trombay Railway.—During the year it was decided to start an experimental tramway service and three light bogie coaches were ordered from a Calcutta firm through the Indian Stores Department. The G. I. P. Railway made no progress with the bridge over their line at Kurla but the necessary steelwork was ordered.

Suburban Scheme No. 22—Kurla-Trombay Railway.—There were no further developments in this scheme by the Directorate but the G. I. P. Railway increased the number of trains running between Kurla and

Chembur. The negotiations with regard to the terms of working the line have led to a proposal that the G. I. P. Railway should take over this railway as a branch of their undertaking and extend it to Mandala. The terms of transfer are under consideration.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The usual meetings of the Advisory Committee were held during the year, in addition to special meetings to consider the reference from Government referred to above. The payment of fees to members for attendance at meetings was sanctioned by Government on the scale adopted by the Port Trust and the City Improvement Trust.

During the year nine meetings of the Sanitary Committee were held and the reclamation works were inspected on each occasion. The Committee continued the bi-weekly examination of all municipal and military areas in Colaba in conjunction with the Military Malaria Officer and the Municipal Health Department staff, and it was reported by the Chairman that there was no epidemic of any disease in any of the camps during the period.

ORGANIZATION OF THE DIRECTORATE

There was a further reduction in establishment during the year in the Housing and Suburban Divisions.

MILITARY (INDIAN AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES)

The Government of India have in the past six months called upon local Governments, Administrations and the General Officers Commanding-in-Chief, Commands, to furnish their views on various important matters concerning the forces based on the recommendations of the Shea Committee. The questions raised, which deal with the expansion and improvement of the forces generally, were fully and carefully gone into, and the result is looked forward to with considerable interest.

Auxiliary Force.—The situation of the Auxiliary Force as a whole continues to be satisfactory and numbers of both officers and men are being maintained. An item of outstanding interest was the winning of the Gwalior Cup by a Battery of the 5th (Bombay) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery.

Territorial Force.—As regards the 11th/5th Mahratta Light Infantry, the progress in recruiting has not been maintained. Meetings of influential gentlemen have been held and steps are being taken to improve recruiting for the unit.

Bombay University Training Corps.—It is hoped shortly that brief lectures on military subjects by Regular Officers will tend to improve the standard of training and inculcate the proper military spirit which is desirable in future officers of the Indian Territorial Forces. Numbers for this unit are well maintained.

Karachi Corps Auxiliary Force.—Recruiting has been satisfactory, 32 men of different classes having enrolled during the year. Training and Musketry have made good progress. The Corps entered for the A. R. A. (India) competitions and was placed second in the A. F. I. Regimental Match.

The Second Battalion, B. B. & C. I. Railway Regiment, A. F. I.—During the year individual training was carried out. The Battalion took part in several competitions and won the Richardson Challenge Cup for the fourth year in succession, the Reading Challenge Cup and silver medals and a bronze medal in the Army Rifle championship.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Bombay and Karachi Societies.—During the year 1924 the Agents of the Society in Bombay City prosecuted in 11,980 cases of cruelty to animals. In 11,289 cases fines were inflicted, in 4 cases the offenders were fined or in default sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, in 619 the ac used were warned and discharged, in one case the accused was sentenced to receive 6 lashes and in 23 the accused were acquitted. 1,519 animals were sent to the Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals for treatment, while 7 animals in cruelty cases and 273 other animals sent from the Hospital and found to be suffering from incurable diseases were sent to the Pinjrapole at Bombay. In Bandra there were 243 prosecutions, fines being inflicted in 238 cases. In five cases the accused were warned and discharged. The whole of the fines levied in cruelty cases prosecuted by the Society's Agents are given to the Society after deducting certain charges. The amount thus received by the Society in 1924 was Rs. 36,613 out of the total receipts of Rs. 38,246. The expenditure was Rs. 39,609.

In Karachi there were 2,346 cases of cruelty to animals prosecuted by the Inspectors of the Society and 2,330 convictions were obtained. The total realisations from fine by the Society's Karachi Branch including arrears of the previous year were Rs. 10,928.

ADVANCES TO CULTIVATORS*

Northern Division.—The total amount advanced as takavi totalled Rs. 5,182 as against Rs. 1·35 lakhs during the previous year, the decrease being due to the favourable nature of the season. Out of the total outstanding of Rs. 29·52 lakhs at the beginning of the year, Rs. 11·12 lakhs were recovered and Rs. 13,868 were suspended.

Central Division.—The amount advanced decreased from Rs. 3·20 lakhs to Rs. 1·25 lakhs. The total outstanding was Rs. 57·88 lakhs, of which Rs. 18·55 lakhs were collected and Rs. 1·70 lakhs were suspended.

Southern Division.—The year opened with an outstanding balance of Rs. 20·16 lakhs. Advances and collections during the year amounted

* This Note was received too late for inclusion in Chapter V.

to Rs. 1·56 lakhs and Rs. 4·59 lakhs respectively. The total outstanding was Rs. 17·12 lakhs.

Six hundred and twenty-six takavi works at Belgaum, Bijapur and Dharwar were in progress.

Sind.—Takavi advances amounted to Rs. 3·09 lakhs against Rs. 84 lakhs in the previous year. The increase is shared by all the districts except Thar Parkar and is due to liberal grants in the flooded area. The total outstandings amounted to Rs. 18·89 lakhs, of which Rs. 6·26 lakhs were collected.

It should be noted that the figures for outstandings and collections do not mean that the amount was due for collection during the year. They represent the total amount of advances outstanding but not necessarily due for collection in the year under review.

APPENDIX I

RESERVED SUBJECTS

(1) Water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power.
(2) Land Revenue Administration.
(3) Famine Relief.
(4) Land Acquisition.
(5) Administration of Justice.
(6) Provincial Law Reports.
(7) Administrators-General and Official Trustees.
(8) Non-judicial stamps : judicial stamps.
(9) Development of mineral resources which are Government property.
(10) Industrial matters, included under the following heads :—
  (*a*) Factories ;
  (*b*) Settlement of labour disputes ;
  (*c*) Electricity ;
  (*d*) Boilers ;
  (*e*) Gas ;
  (*f*) Smoke Nuisances ; and
  (*g*) Welfare of labour and housing.
(11) Ports (with certain exceptions).
(12) Inland water-ways, including shipping and navigation, not declared central subjects.
(13) Police, including railway police.
(14) (*a*) Regulation of betting and gambling ;
  (*b*) Prevention of cruelty to animals ;
  (*c*) Protection of wild birds and animals ;
  (*d*) Control of poisons ;
  (*e*) Control of motor vehicles : and
  (*f*) Control of dramatic performances and cinematographs.
(15) Control of newspapers, books and printing presses.
(16) Coroners.
(17) Excluded Areas.
(18) Criminal Tribes.
(19) European vagrancy.
(20) Prisons, prisoners (except State prisoners) and reformatories.
(21) Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass.
(22) Treasure trove.
(23) Provincial Government Presses.
(24) Elections, Indian and Provincial.
(25) Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards.
(26) Local Fund Audit.

(27) Control of members of all-India and provincial services serving within the province and control of public services within the province other than all-India services.
(28) Sources of provincial revenue—
  (*a*) taxes included in the Schedules to the Scheduled Taxes Rules, or
  (*b*) taxes, not included in those Schedules, which are imposed by or under provincial legislation which has received the previous sanction of the Governor General.
(29) Borrowing of money on the sole credit of the province.

TRANSFERRED SUBJECTS

(1) Local Self-Government (except Cantonments).
(2) Medical administration.
(3) Public health, sanitation and vital statistics.
(4) Pilgrimages within British India.
(5) Education (with some exceptions).
(6) Public Works—
  (*a*) Construction and maintenance of provincial buildings.
  (*b*) Roads, bridges, ferries, etc.
  (*c*) Tramways within municipal areas.
  (*d*) Light and feeder-railways and extra-municipal tramways for which provision is made by provincial legislation.
(7) Agriculture.
(8) Civil Veterinary Department.
(9) Fisheries.
(10) Co-operative Societies.
(11) Forests.
(12) Excise.
(13) Registration of deeds and documents.
(14) Registration of births, deaths and marriages.
(15) Religious and Charitable Endowments.
(16) Development of industries, including industrial research and technical education.
(17) Stores and stationery required for transferred Departments.
(18) Adulteration of food-stuffs and other articles.
(19) Weights and measures.
(20) Libraries and museums (with certain exceptions).

APPENDIX II

List of official Reports used in the compilation of this Volume.

PART II

CHAPTER I

INDIAN STATES

Annual Reports of the Indian States referred to in the Chapter and of Aden for the year 1924-25.

CHAPTER II

LAND RECORDS

Annual Report of the Department of Land Records in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind), Report of the Collector and Talukdari Settlement Officer, Ahmedabad, and the Report on the Administration of Incumbered Estates in Sind for the year 1924-25.

CHAPTER III

LAW AND JUSTICE

Report on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the Bombay Presidency and Sind and Report on the Administration of the Registration Department for the year 1924, Annual Report on the working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for the year 1924-25 and Proceedings of the Bombay Legislative Council.

CHAPTER IV

POLICE AND CRIME

Annual Reports on the Bombay District Police and the Bombay City Police, Administration Reports on Government Workhouses, Administration Report of the Bombay Jail Department and the Report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1924.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

The Season and Crop Report of the Bombay Presidency, the Report of the Department of Agriculture, Land Revenue Administration Report

of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind, Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency, Annual Report on Forests, Note on the Weather of the Bombay Presidency and the Annual Report of the Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona, for the year 1924-25.

CHAPTER VI

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Annual Report of the Department of Industries for the year 1924-25, Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1924, Report on the Administration of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Department, Annual Report of the Bombay Smoke Nuisances Commission, Annual Report on the Sea-borne Trade and Customs Administration of the Bombay Presidency, Report on the Maritime Trade of the Province of Sind, Report on the Trade and Navigation of the Port of Aden, and Annual Reports on Shipping Offices, Bombay, Karachi and Aden, for the year 1924-25.

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC WORKS

Administration Report of the Public Works Department for the year 1924-25.

CHAPTER VIII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for the Government of Bombay for the year 1924, Report on Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries for the year 1924-25, Annual Report of the Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory and Report on Mental Hospitals for the year 1924, Report on Vaccination in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1924-25, Annual Reports of the Chemical Analysers to Government, Bombay and Sind, for the year 1924, and Annual Administration Report of the Civil Veterinary Department in the Bombay Presidency including Sind for the year 1924-25.

CHAPTER IX

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure for the Bombay Presidency including Sind, Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, Annual Report on Local Boards in the Bombay Presidency, Administration Report of the City of Bombay Improvement Trust and Annual Reports on Port Trusts, Bombay, Karachi and Aden, for the year 1924-25.

APPENDICES

CHAPTER X

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Annual Report on the Sea-borne Trade and Customs Administration of the Bombay Presidency, Report on the Maritime Trade of the Province of Sind, Reports on the Administration of the Salt Department of the Bombay Presidency and in Sind, Reports on the Administration of the Excise Department in the Bombay Presidency, Sind and Aden, Annual Report of the Stamp Department in the Bombay Presidency and Sind, and the Annual Report on Income Tax for the year 1924-25.

CHAPTER XI

INSTRUCTION

Report of the Director of Public Instruction in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1924-25, Report of the Reformatory School at Yeravda and the Report of the Royal Asiatic Society (Bombay Branch) for the year 1924, Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, and the Annual Report of the Victoria Museum, Karachi, for the year 1924-25.

CHAPTER XII

ARCHÆOLOGY

Progress Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Western Circle, for the year 1924-25.

CHAPTER XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

Administration Reports for the Diocese of Bombay and of the Presidency Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, Bombay Presidency, Annual Report on Government Printing and Stationery, and the Report on the working of the Development Department for the year 1924-25 and the Annual Reports of the Bombay and Karachi Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the years 1924 and 1924-25, respectively.

APPENDIX III

1924-25

GOVERNOR

His Excellency Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, P.C., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., D.S.O.

PRESIDENT, BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Maurice H. W. Hayward, Kt.	Home Member and Vice-President of Council.
The Honourable Mr. P. R. Cadell (Temporary). (Vacated office, 16 August 1924.)	Finance Member.
The Honourable Mr. H. S. Lawrence ..	
The Honourable Mr. C. V. Mehta ..	.. Revenue Member.
The Honourable Mr. Cowasji Jehangir	.. General Member.

MINISTERS

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Shaikh Ghulam Husain Hidayatallah.	Minister of Local Self-Government.
The Honourable Mr. B. V. Jadhav ..	.. Minister of Education.
The Honourable Mr Ali Mahomed Khan Dehlavi .	Minister of Forests and Excise.

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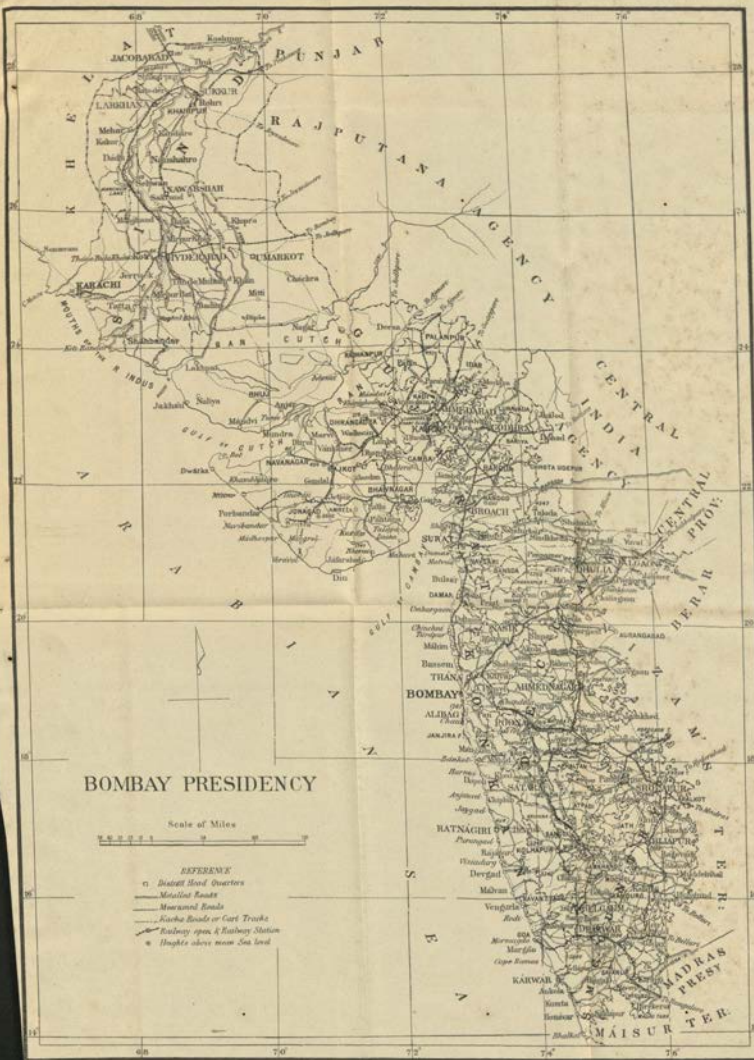
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Scale of Miles
REFERENCE
District Head Quarters
Metalled Roads
Unmetalled Roads
Kutcha Roads or Cart Tracks
Railway open & Railway Station
Heights above mean Sea level
BOMBAY
KARACHI
HYDERABAD
SUKKUR
JACOBABAD
LARKHANA
KHAIRPUR
UMARKOT
MIRPUR KHAS
THARPARKAR
PALANPUR
DEESA
AHMEDABAD
BARODA
CAMBAY
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DAMAN
NASIK
THANA
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KOLHAPUR
BELGAUM
DHARWAR
KARWAR
GOA
RATNAGIRI
SHOLAPUR
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PORBANDAR
JUNAGADH
DWARKA
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